

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I'm off to Afghanistan this summer. Damn, this is more dangerous than Afghanistan."

— Dr. Jim Parry, an Air Force reservist who tended to a man shot during Mardi Gras in New Orleans

See story on Page 7

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2. Rape case against GI dismissed
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5. Sugarland to play on Europe bases

COMING SOON

On Sunday

For in-depth news and issue analysis, look to **Perspectives**, every Sunday in Stars and Stripes starting March 1.

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By CHIYOMI SUMIDA
Stars and Stripes

CHATAN, Okinawa — Trickery was a secret to a Japanese team's win of a gold medal in floor hockey at the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Boise, Idaho.

Coach Takeshi Zukeran, 34, revealed Tuesday during a meeting of the Okinawa chapter of Special Olympics Japan that he tricked his team into thinking the final game was just another semifinal match. He didn't want them feeling too pressured to win.

"When I told them that we won the gold medal, everybody started to cry for joy," he said. "It is a great reward to see each team member grow stronger, both physically and mentally."

The team was formed in 2002 by volunteer American service-members, said Chip Steitz, chairman of the chapter's finance and public relations committee.

Six members of Japan's 14-member "Team Sakura" floor hockey squad are from Okinawa.

Floor hockey was one of the most popular of the seven sports featured at the games earlier this month, with more than 80



CHIYOMI SUMIDA/Stars and Stripes

Members of the Okinawa chapter of Special Olympics Japan on Tuesday celebrate the floor hockey team's gold from the Special Olympics Winter World Games in Boise, Idaho, earlier this month.

teams competing in the event. The games also featured Alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, figure skating, snowboarding, snowshoeing and speed skating.

"I was happy because we had a great time together," said a smiling Hitoshi Naho, 37, the floor hockey team's goalkeeper.

Throughout the years, donations from Americans and U.S. military base groups have played a key role in outfitting the team, Steitz said.

Steitz was awarded a certificate of appreciation at the meeting, where he praised the player's efforts.

"The team's achievement was incredible," Steitz said. "Through our journey, we have made a difference to hundreds if not thousands of special-needs athletes and artists living on Okinawa."

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Obama: Listening to speech 'gave me more confidence'

OBAMA, FROM PAGE 1

Antioch has been hit hard by foreclosures, and housing values have dropped by 50 percent in many neighborhoods. Silahua's house, which he bought for \$281,000 seven years ago, is now valued, he believes, at about \$89,000. He is fighting a bank

eviction.

So Obama's plan is, for him, a bit more abstract: "His initiatives are good — they just probably won't help me at this point."

That is often the problem when grand national themes collide with the building blocks of people's lives and bank accounts. Obama invoked the vaunted American optimism and said that yes, another American century was possible. But it can be a hard sell for folks who lie awake at 2 a.m. with the stomach-churning realization that the creditors will be calling at dawn.

When FDR started his fireside chats in the depths of the Depression, hope was a scarce commodity — even more scarce than it is today. The new president, eight

years before World War II began, reassured Americans with a voice that was "authoritative but not autocratic, persuasive but not coercive," FDR biographer Jonathan Alter wrote.

That was, of course, long before Vietnam and Watergate and the deep distrust in government that they begat.

Jody Baugh, an unemployed Indiana welder, offers the modern equivalent of the warm reception that many Americans gave FDR's chats. Baugh was hungry for hope and he, said, Obama delivered.

"He didn't come across as a used-car salesman," Baugh said. "He came across as someone who legitimately cared about people like me."

"This is the first time I ever

watched the whole speech of any president," Baugh said. "I didn't get up at all. It gave me more confidence. I thought, 'At least I've got somebody who is more on my side than before.'"

And though one-third of the nation's history separates them, Obama and Roosevelt shared one thing above all else as they addressed Americans about the economy at the beginning of their presidencies. Each demanded action — not only from government but from we, the people.

Said Roosevelt in 1933: "It is your problem no less than it is mine."

Said Obama in 2008: "The time to take charge of our future is here."

Correction

A Feb. 26 story should have attributed the comment about subtle "heterosexual bias in the classrooms" to Kubasaki High School senior Michael Santivasci.

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BEST OF THE
PACIFIC
2008

Cobra Gold 2009

U.S. military prepares allies in Pacific as peacekeepers



PHOTOS BY KEVIN BARON/Stars and Stripes

A U.S. Navy landing craft crashes ashore Feb. 14 to pick up mock evacuees from the beach in Hat Yao, Thailand, during Cobra Gold '09.

Editor's note:

Stars and Stripes reporter Kevin Baron accompanied U.S. servicemembers throughout Thailand to capture the Cobra Gold experience. This is Part II of his wrap-up. Go to stripes.com for other stories and more photos.

By KEVIN BARON
Stars and Stripes

On a rural road in the hot, dry countryside of Thailand, a dozen protesters shout "No! No! No!"

Using only a fallen tree and their bodies, they face off against a wall of elbow-linked Thai soldiers tasked to escort a World Food Programme convoy of food, water and supplies to a humanitarian distribution encampment.

It is almost believable.

The protesters are Asian troops in civilian clothes and locally hired role players. As a Royal Thai Army negotiator speaks calmly to the crowd leader, several try to dash through the security line.

At a barbed-wired encampment farther down the road, ex-combatants have come to lay down their arms and return to society. An English-speaking Thai soldier beckons a civilian woman to rise from her knees and pass the gate. Inside, a man holding a cardboard TV news camera tries to record a detainee processing, which is not allowed. A Thai soldier pushes him back firmly but politely.

Suddenly, the bang of a flash grenade pierces the quiet and a speeding white pickup truck drives by, rebels firing blanks from automatic weapons. Thais hit the dirt, green smoke fills the air, and the soldiers return fire.

The event reminds Mixon of his service in

road, moaning in pretend agony.

Just a few feet away, Lt. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, U.S. Army Pacific commanding general, smiles.

It has taken weeks for these combined teams to prepare for this Global Peacekeeping Operations Initiative. Only six U.S. noncommissioned officers are here, with a handful of U.N. advisers. Their job is to train the trainers in foreign militaries.

"They're just there to help the students," said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Thomas, a training designer who was commandant of the NCO Academy-Hawaii. The idea of junior ranks giving orders remains a big cultural leap in Asian militaries that draw a hard line between officers and enlisted men.

In this scenario, the WFP wants no military onboard its vehicles. But Asian armed forces are used to being in charge of aid convoys, Thomas explained. It's a challenge these trainees will face in the real world, where militaries frequently have to negotiate how far to keep away from aid vehicles.

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The event reminds Mixon of his service in

Colombia, where members of the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) gave up their arms.

"The hard part is always reintegration," Mixon said, and setting up what amounts to vocational training.

When a combatant lays down his arms, "you have to house the family, you've got to feed them — it takes maybe a year or more to get them some kind of skill. Well, that's a huge investment," he said. A political decision has to be made, "whether you're going to fight these guys for 40 years or reintegrate them into society."

Political decisions are on Mixon's mind often, 8,000 miles from the Pentagon; particularly, those that will direct the coming shift in fighting to the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

"I think everyone recognizes that it has to be done," Mixon said solemnly.

But the military's role there must be better defined, he added, and the U.S. Agency for International Development and State Department components must be stepped up.

"From a strategic perspective and a soft power perspective, that's something that the U.S. has got to expand," he said.

After serving in Iraq and South America, Mixon knows the limitations of a military's ability to affect the behavior of civilian populations.

SEE COBRA ON PAGE 4



Top: Royal Thai Army soldiers tackle volunteer protesters attempting to block humanitarian aid.
Above: A Thai military policeman searches a Thai evacuee.



Top: Volunteer Thai nationals board a Royal Thai landing ship Feb. 14.
Above: Mock protesters and Royal Thai Army soldiers square off Feb. 9 in Lop Buri, Thailand, for access to U.N. humanitarian aid.



Smoke grenades cloud a mock U.N. humanitarian relief distribution station under attack on Feb. 9 in Lop Buri, Thailand, during a training drill.

Bill would simplify relocation for spouses

By LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Cindy Maurer is living in Maryland right now, but she doesn't have any idea what state really counts as her home.

"We've moved 10 times in 18 years," the Navy wife said. "I'm a physical therapist, and have a professional license in Mississippi, California, Maryland, Hawaii and Virginia. I have a driver's license in my purse that's from Hawaii, but I'm a voter in Maryland now."

"I'm spinning just thinking about everything I have to do every time we have to move."

Under federal law, servicemembers who move from state to state on military assignments can keep their home state residency if they so choose, allowing them to avoid switching driver's licenses, voting privileges and tax status.

But military spouses who join them can't. Maurer said with each move she's had to research new state residency laws to figure out how to register the couple's cars, where to file their taxes and dozens of other tasks.

"And that's on top of the stress of moving," she said.

On Wednesday, Maurer and other military spouses gathered in Washington to back legislation sponsored by Rep. John Carter, R-Texas, that would change those rules, allowing spouses to keep the same state of residence as their servicemembers for their entire military career.

The measure wouldn't solve all the headaches — Maurer would still have to get professional licenses in every state where she works, for example — but the spouses said it would eliminate dozens of other switches they have to make but their servicemembers do not.

Carter called the inequity "an egregious error" that lawmakers need to correct; the statute governing military spouses' residency hasn't been updated



LEO SHANE III/Stars and Stripes

Rep. John Carter, R-Texas, listens as Army wife Karen Francis speaks to a crowd at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday about his bill to allow military spouses to keep their original state residency when their servicemember is reassigned to another base in a different state.

since 1940.

Joanna Williamson, a Navy wife who brought the issue to Carter last year, said the current rules aren't simply a minor inconvenience for families as they move from place to place.

Often spouses will register cars or homes only in their servicemember's name to avoid fees and filing in multiple states, she said. If the couple divorces, the spouse could be left with nothing.

"The spouse earned that property, and they need to have that protection," she said. "So it becomes an issue of fairness and equality in the relationship. I have a job. I own a vehicle. I should be able to put that in my name."

Late last year Carter introduced similar legislation that passed the House but never came up for a vote in the Senate. He said he believes bringing up the issue early in the year will give him the time needed to collect enough supporters for passage, and has already received support on the Senate side for the proposal.

Tameka Gabriel, a Navy wife who drove from North Carolina to D.C. for the event, said she's hopeful the changes can be passed this year.

"Everything is just a long process," she said. "This would just take away so much of the grief that comes with making a move."

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Army dropping additional re-up bonus

By JEFF SCHOGOL
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Army has ended an additional re-enlistment bonus that targeted soldiers whose contracts were set to expire this fiscal year after exceeding its retention goal.

More than 7,900 soldiers who had been slated to leave the Army before Oct. 1 have re-enlisted this fiscal year, beating the Army's target by more than 700 soldiers, said Master Sgt. Michael Beaupre, retention operations noncommissioned officer in the directorate of military personnel management.

The total number of soldiers eligible for the bonus was not available Tuesday, said Sgt. Maj. Dean Drummond, senior Army career counselor.

In December, the Army announced that soldiers slated to leave active duty by Oct. 1 could be eligible to receive a re-enlist-

ment bonus of up to \$18,500.

That bonus was not part of the latest Armywide message outlining the Selective Re-Enlistment Bonus-Enhanced Program.

The message was issued Feb. 13 and became effective Feb. 20.

Asked why soldiers were given only a week's notice that the bonus was going away, Beaupre said that the Army announced in December that the re-enlistment bonus program could change any time after Feb. 2.

The move comes about two months after the Army reduced the number of Military Occupational Specialties that rate a re-en-

listment bonus from 88 to 63. Its budget for retention bonuses this fiscal year has been cut by \$90 million, and more cuts are possible.

Meanwhile, the Army is expected to meet its goal of increasing its active-duty end strength to 547,000 this year.

Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Chiarelli recently said the Army's recruiting efforts began seeing increased success in December 2007, which he has heard coincided with the economic crisis.

Army officials will look at whether the service needs to offer so many retention bonuses given current economic conditions, Chiarelli told reporters last month.

"They've got to go ahead and look at those and tell us whether or not we have to offer the same bonuses today that we've offered in the past," he said.

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Chiarelli

Cobra: High operational tempo has strained regular training efforts

COBRA, FROM PAGE 4

"Military is a means to a political end," he said. The question he asks himself is: "What is the political end going to be?"

"I think that will change in the next few months," he said with confidence.

Stretched thin

In the Chiang Mai combined joint staff headquarters, Cobra Gold leaders say that even at the command level, training has strained under the pressures of constant warfare.

"It's a testament to our soldiers and leaders that we're able to pull this off," said Hansen.

The Army's transformation to a smaller, more expeditionary-based structure, which was launched after 9/11, included the authorization to stand up a fully deployable Operational Command Post, or OCP, in each of the five service component commands theaters, including U.S. Army Pacific.

But that plan was created in an environment far different from what exists today, explained Col. Sean Callahan, 46, from Norwalk, Conn., the current operations officer for the OCP out of Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

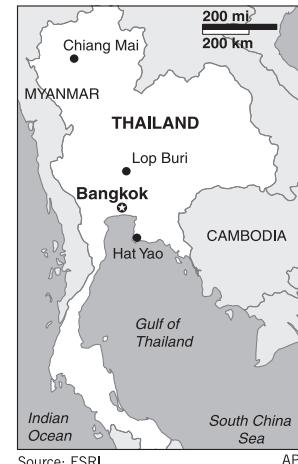
To date, USARPAC's OCP has only deployed twice, to the Japanese exercise "Yama Sakura" in 2007 and 2008, and in neither instance at full strength.

"We deploy a core element, a fraction of what we're authorized," said Callahan, who brought the OCP to Cobra Gold for the first time this year. "We haven't been able to resource it like we originally intended. So we have something much less than that, right now. Something that can keep the lights on."

Until help arrives, military trainers are forced to adjust to the demands handed to them.

"Training management is really being challenged throughout the Army because of the operational tempo and the commitment to the war, there's no question," Callahan said.

One casualty has been the Army's "Eight-Step Training Model," he explained. "It's what you'd like to do. It's what you try to do. But it ends up being less than perfect because of lack of



Source: ESRI

time and lack of people."

"Back in the good old Cold War days, you had a fairly predictable stable cycle throughout the year. I could tell you a year from now, as a company commander, when I was going to be in a down cycle, when I was going to be in an intense training cycle, [and] when I would be in a support cycle," Callahan said. "Here, you're challenged to do any of that because of the personnel constraints, because of the demands of the war."

The colonel said he is encouraged that the Army is looking at fundamental changes to the training tempo.

"We've gone through multiple iterations of 'What do we do now?' based on the changed situation and we're still working through that," said Callahan.

But the Army never has recovered from the assumptions behind the original transformation plan.

In the meantime, Callahan defended holding exercises like Cobra Gold, no matter how difficult.

"Look, you've got to pay attention to the Pacific. There are plenty of terrorist organizations, not just in the Middle East but throughout Asia and the Pacific region," he said.

One briefing slide Callahan put together shows 14 terrorist organizations over the map of Southeast Asia. "And that's not exhaustive," he said.

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KEVIN BARON/Stars and Stripes

Mock protesters and Royal Thai Army soldiers square off Feb. 9 in Lop Buri, Thailand in one of the many training missions of Cobra Gold.

Care for brain trauma rising at Walter Reed

BY LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Doctors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center are treating fewer torso and limb injuries in troops returning from combat but more brain trauma and psychological disorders, the top Pentagon health official said Wednesday.

Ward Casscells, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said that's largely due to the drop in violence in Iraq, and could reverse as fighting intensifies in Afghanistan in coming months.

But he also credited better recognition of brain injuries by doctors and a lessening of the stigma associated with some psychological diagnoses. For example,

physicians saw an increase in the number of patients reporting symptoms of depression over the last year.

"Guys are telling us they would still much rather be diagnosed with traumatic brain injury than post-traumatic stress disorder," Casscells said. "But we're getting at some of that stigma. We've reduced it a bit."

"And as we increase dwell time, we hope to see decreases in those numbers as well."

More than 80 percent of "wounded warrior" patients at Walter Reed are dealing with traumatic brain injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder, concussion complications and similar wounds, hospital

officials said.

On Tuesday, Casscells and other military health experts toured the facility to see changes made in the two years since a Washington Post investigative report found poor living conditions and frustrating regulations for some patients.

Commander Col. Norvell V. Coots touted improvements in communication with patients and living quarters but acknowledged that more than half of patients still complain about difficulties getting timely appointments with their doctors.

"In the civilian sector you have your doctor ... but when you call here, Dr. Jones may be in Iraq or Afghanistan or assigned somewhere else," he said. "So we're trying

to get to a team approach to help address that."

"But they want to make an appointment quickly, and we need to do better to help with that."

Coots said Walter Reed officials are also surveying patients regularly to better gauge their complaints and will have front-desk "greeters" on call around the clock starting next month to provide more access to help for troops and their families.

Casscells said he's pleased with the improvements thus far, noting that most of the feedback he receives from patients now during regular visits focuses on improving family housing on campus.

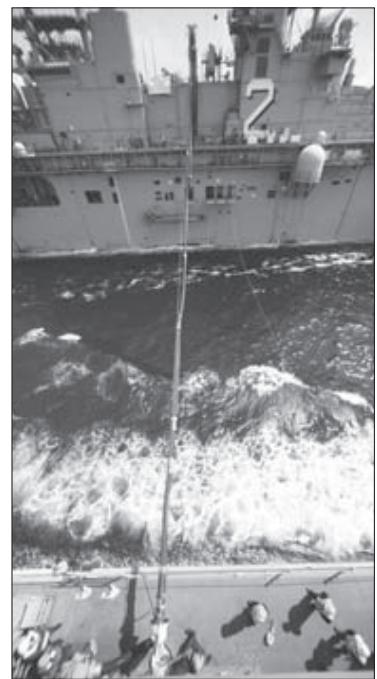
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Trained in replenishing



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW R. WHITE/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Above: Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew Brooks, assigned to the USS Harpers Ferry, performs semaphore signaling to the USS Essex. Harpers Ferry and Essex are forward-deployed to Sasebo, Japan, and operate as part of the only forward-deployed U.S. expeditionary strike group. Right: The USS Essex replenishes the USS Harpers Ferry during a training exercise in the Gulf of Thailand.



City officials ask Misawa for help with water supply

BY T.D. FLACK
Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Misawa city officials want the U.S. military's help in case they suffer a water supply failure like the one that left nearly 240,000 off-base residents in nearby towns dry in January.

Mayor Kazumasa Taneichi made the request to 35th Fighter Wing commander Col. David Stilwell during an annual community relations advisory council meeting Wednesday at the Misawa International Center.

Stilwell told Taneichi and other city representatives he wanted to arrange additional meetings to have the "experts" see what assistance the base could provide from its own internal water system.

One challenge, Stilwell predicted, would be figuring out how to link the base and city systems. He also warned that while the base had some "excess capacity," it couldn't completely support local communities in the event of a full water loss. He also added that Januay's situation affected Japanese base employees and Americans who were living in shortage areas.

Officials with the Hachinohe Regional Water Supply Corp. said Wednesday that the Jan. 1-6 water outage was caused by a crack in a nearly 4-foot diameter pipe that pulls water from the Mabechi River to a water purification plant. It affected more than 92,000 households in six towns and one city, but not Misawa city.

Community concerns

Among other issues Misawa city officials raised with 35th Fighter Wing commander Col. David Stilwell:

Promoting more use of the city airport

City officials asked Stilwell to promote airport use with the on-base community, and said they were working on developing better package tours and a free parking lot. Stilwell said recent changes in the "economic climate" could have resulted in more base residents staying home instead of traveling and limited funding meant fewer official flights in 2008. But, he said, the addition of direct flights to Tokyo's Narita International Airport could result in more travelers.

Illegally dumping trash off base

City officials recorded five incidents of U.S. personnel living off base who illegally dumped their garbage last year. Stilwell highlighted on-base efforts to educate those who live off

base on proper procedures for throwing away their garbage. He also asked the city to have Japanese landlords address the issue immediately so proper steps could be taken to solve the problem.

Fine-tuning a gate security project

A force-protection update at the main gate has left some business owners upset that customers cannot access their stores, according to city officials. They've suggested opening three 3-foot-wide spaces in the guardrails for customers to walk through and one 12-foot-wide gate so vehicles can deliver goods. Stilwell said the base will continue to work with the owners about access.

Developing old railroad bed into a trail

City officials want the base, or the Japanese government, to turn a 1.2-mile stretch of railroad tracks that once was used to supply the base into a walking trail. Stilwell suggested continued meetings to seek a resolution.

— T.D. Flack

continue to keep a close eye on the streets and to use a "snow-removing agent," such as sand or salt.

Stilwell also stressed to the Japanese leaders his command's efforts to keep off-base "incidents and accidents" in check, including working with local bar owners to ensure responsible behavior on everyone's behalf.

Stars and Stripes reporter Hana Kusumoto contributed to this story.

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DOD officials keep quiet on budget talks

BY JEFF SCHOGOL
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The first rule of the defense budget is you do not talk about the defense budget.

At the request of Defense Secretary Robert Gates, top defense officials have signed a nondisclosure agreement prohibiting them from talking about the budgeting process, said Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell.

"This is highly sensitive stuff, involving programs costing tens of billions of dollars, employing hundreds of thousands of people, and [going] to the heart of our national security," Morrell told reporters Wednesday.

Gates himself has signed the nondisclosure agreement, which is meant to foster an atmosphere of candor among those crafting the defense budget by reassuring them that their conversations will not be leaked, Morrell said.

"Ultimately, this product ... [has] got to be judged as a whole, so if bits and pieces leak out, you start to tug on these strings, and the whole thing could unravel," he said.

The need for secrecy especially applies to aspects of the budget that might not be classified, Morrell said.

"If, indeed, not all the materials that this gang is working with are marked secret, or are classified, and therefore For Official Use Only, all the more reason for a nondisclosure agreement, so that those matters cannot be discussed as well," he said.

This is the first time Gates has had defense officials sign such an agreement, Morrell said.

Top U.S. officials have hinted that over-budget weapons systems could be on the chopping block as the Defense Department looks to cut costs.

"We'll eliminate the no-bid contracts that have wasted billions in Iraq, and reform our defense budget so that we're not paying for Cold War-era weapons systems we don't use," President Barack Obama told Congress on Tuesday night.

Morrell declined to say Wednesday what programs he might have been talking about.

One reporter asked how the use of the nondisclosure agreement squares with the Obama administration's pledge to be more transparent.

"I don't think the administration has been advocating transparency in national security matters," Morrell said.

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GI shot by men in Iraqi police uniforms dies

Stars and Stripes

One of the four U.S. soldiers shot by a pair of men in Iraqi police uniforms in Mosul has died of his wounds, the U.S. military said late Tuesday.

The soldier, who is not being identified publicly until next of kin have been notified, died at the Combat Support Hospital on the U.S. base in Mosul, officials said.

An Iraqi interpreter was also killed in the shooting, which was the third incident since November in which gunmen wearing

Iraqi uniforms have attacked American troops in northern Iraq, where the insurgency has remained stronger than in other areas of the country.

Military officials did not release the conditions of the three other U.S. troops and a second Iraqi interpreter who were wounded in the incident.

According to Iraqi and American reports, the American troops had gone to meet local forces at an Iraqi police station around 2 p.m. on Tuesday. When the Americans

arrived at a bridge checkpoint in the city, Iraqis manning the checkpoint opened fire.

There were conflicting reports on whether the gunmen were apprehended. Iraqi officials said the men jumped into a waiting vehicle, then sped from the scene. The officials also said the men's families had fled their homes earlier in the day, indicating the attack had been planned.

The shooting was the latest in a string of similar incidents involving Iraqi security forces in the

Mosul area.

On Nov. 25, a Marine and an U.S. soldier were killed when a man in an Iraqi army uniform opened fire while they were giving out blankets near Baaj, southwest of Mosul near the Syrian border. Two Marines and three Iraqi civilians were wounded in what military officials said seemed to be an unprovoked attack.

Earlier that month, an Iraqi soldier ambushed U.S. soldiers in a courtyard of a military base in a Mosul neighborhood, killing

two Americans and wounding six before he died in an ensuing gunbattle.

In December 2007, an Iraqi soldier opened fire on U.S. troops during a joint patrol in Mosul, killing two Americans and wounding three others along with a civilian interpreter. The Iraqi soldier was apprehended.

U.S. forces are in the midst of a monthlong house-to-house drive to clear insurgents from Mosul, which remains one of Iraq's most violent areas.

Afghan troops kill 18 militants

The Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Afghan soldiers killed 18 militants targeting a poppy eradication force in the country's volatile south, officials said Wednesday. Two soldiers were also killed in the battle.

The clash in the Nawa district of Helmand province broke out after insurgents fired on police officers working to rid the countryside of poppy plants, from which opium is made, said Daud Ahmadi, spokesman for the governor.

Afghan and international soldiers were protecting the eradication force when it was attacked Tuesday, and two foreign soldiers were wounded in the exchange, said Ahmadi.

He did not provide the soldiers' nationalities.

Investigators comb bomb site in Afghanistan



ALLAUDIN KHAN/AP

An armed Afghan guards the site as others investigate where a remote-control bomb planted on a motorcycle exploded in Kandahar city on Wednesday. Two Afghan civilians were killed and eight people, including five soldiers, were wounded, said army commander Sher Mohammad Zazai.

Reports: Uzbekistan, NATO reach Afghan deal

MOSCOW — Uzbekistan has reached an agreement with NATO allowing the alliance to send non-military supplies through the Central Asian nation en route to Afghanistan, news agencies quoted the Uzbek president as saying Wednesday.

A U.S. military official last week said a tentative agreement had been reached, but there had been no confirmation until the statement by President Islam Karimov, which was reported by the Interfax and ITAR-Tass news agencies.

Most supplies for the international military operation in Afghanistan have gone by land through Pakistan, a route whose security is increasingly undermined by attacks.

This new northern transit route goes from Western Europe through Russia and Kazakhstan before reaching Uzbekistan. A rail spur from Uzbekistan extends a short distance into Afghanistan.

From The Associated Press

Iraq lawmaker on the run after immunity is lifted

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi authorities ordered the midnight return of a plane carrying a Sunni lawmaker accused of directing a private terror cell, forcing him back to Baghdad on Wednesday hours before parliament lifted his immunity and cleared the way for his arrest.

Mohammed al-Dayni faces allegations he masterminded a string of attacks that include a 2007 suicide bombing inside the parliament building and mortar strikes on Baghdad's Green Zone.

He left the airport before an arrest warrant was issued, and by nightfall was the target of a nationwide manhunt.

Al-Dayni has strongly denied the charges, claiming they are part of a campaign by the Shiite-led government to silence critics. He has frequently spoken out against alleged rights abuses of Sunni prisoners and suspected

Iranian influence over the nation's Shiite leaders.

The showdown over al-Dayni risks reopening Sunni-Shiite rifts after U.S.-backed efforts for political reconciliation. His supporters have called for a full-scale investigation of all parliament members suspected of links to sectarian violence.

Wisem al-Zeidi, a top parliament aide, said majority of lawmakers at an emergency session voted to lift al-Dayni's immunity from prosecution. He did not immediately give further details of the vote breakdown.

Al-Dayni claims he was traveling to Jordan to see family when authorities ordered the Iraqi Airways jet to return to Baghdad just as it was about to leave Iraqi airspace.

"I was banned from traveling.... I am nervous, but I'm not afraid," he told The Associated Press by telephone after his plane landed back in Baghdad.

A number of Iraqi political figures facing charges of corruption

or violence have fled to neighboring Jordan or Syria.

Videotaped interrogations of two former bodyguards — one of whom is al-Dayni's nephew — were released last week, implicating him as the ringleader of a network that waged a nearly three-year reign of violence.

Iraq's government, meanwhile, welcomed reports of a U.S. combat troop withdrawal by August 2010.

"The Iraqi troops are ready to take responsibility. There is

nothing to worry about and the withdrawal will be carried out in coordination between the two sides," said Sadiq al-Rikabi, one of the Iraqi prime minister's top advisers.

President Barack Obama was expected to order all U.S. combat troops to leave Iraq by August of next year. Obama's announcement will speed up the timeline of a U.S.-Iraqi security pact, which took effect Jan. 1, calling for American troops to withdraw from Iraq's cities by June 30 and

completely pull out troops by the end of 2011.

But the withdrawal of troops under Obama's plan would still have U.S. troops in Iraq well after parliamentary elections this year, which military officials have said is one of the next big security tests. There are more than 140,000 U.S. troops in Iraq.

In Ankara, Turkey's foreign minister, Ali Babacan, said his country was willing to offer "support and help" for the U.S. pullout from neighboring Iraq.

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IN THE STATES

Obama tells nation: 'We will recover'

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — To a nation reeling from recession and facing long-festering problems, President Barack Obama has a simple reminder: "We are not quitters."

Whatever the problems, the new president promised Tuesday in the first prime-time speech of his term, "We will rebuild, we will recover and the United States of America will emerge stronger than before."

On Wednesday, a senior administration official said Obama's first budget will seek \$634 billion over 10 years as a down payment on health care reform.

The official said Obama's proposal is meant to start a dialogue with Congress over how to provide coverage for an estimated 48 million uninsured while also slowing health care costs, which amount to \$2.4 trillion a year and keep rising even as the economy is shrinking.

The senior official spoke on condition of anonymity.

Standing before a joint session of Congress on Tuesday night, Obama optimistically sketched an agenda that began with jobs, then broadened quickly to include a stable credit system, better schools, health care reform, reliable domestic sources of energy and an end to the war in Iraq. Specifics will follow, he said, although he conceded billions more



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP

President Barack Obama addresses a joint session of Congress in the House Chamber of the Capitol in Washington on Tuesday.

may be necessary to stabilize the banking system.

The president drew loud cheers as he made his way down the center aisle, again when he stood, alone, at the podium to speak, and several more times in an address delivered in a hall packed with lawmakers, members of his administration, Supreme Court justices and diplomats.

Humorous and poignant moments took their turns on a night when virtually the entire government gathered under one roof.

As when Obama explained his

decision to have Vice President Joe Biden oversee implementation of his stimulus plan by saying, "Nobody messes with Joe."

Or when he urged lawmakers to pass education legislation named in part for Massachusetts' Democratic Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, battling brain cancer. The 77-year-old lawmaker "has never stopped asking what he can do for his country," Obama said.

Little more than one month into the president's term, Obama's speech followed congressional passage of an \$787 billion stimu-

lus bill, coincided with pending proposals to stem an epidemic of mortgage foreclosures and served as the prelude to a budget Obama pledged will cut projected deficits in half by the end of his term.

The new president submits his tax and spending plans to Congress on Thursday.

Aside from health care, the budget will extend Obama's signature \$400 tax cut for workers, originally enacted as part of the economic stimulus plan.

The budget also calls for an increase in the top income tax rate, from 35 percent to 39.6 percent for couples with incomes above \$250,000 a year, said another administration official.

Obama has called on Congress to send him a health care reform bill this year, but even before the budget arrives on Capitol Hill, senior members of both parties say they are concerned about the cost.

Republicans said they were ready to work with Obama and his Democratic allies in Congress — up to a point.

"Where we agree, Republicans must be the president's strongest partners. And where we disagree, Republicans have a responsibility to be candid and offer better ideas for a path forward," said Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, tapped to deliver the GOP response to Obama's speech on Tuesday.

Obama taps Locke for Commerce

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Wednesday announced he has chosen former Washington Gov. Gary Locke as his nominee for Commerce secretary, trying a third time to fill a key Cabinet post for a country in recession.

"I'm sure it's not lost on anyone that we've tried this a couple of times. But I'm a big believer in keeping at something until you get it right. And Gary is the right man for this job," Obama said.

Obama praised Locke, a Chinese-American, as a man who shares his vision for turning around the moribund economy, and is committed to doing what it takes to keep the American dream alive.

Locke said he was committed to making the sprawling agency an "active and integral partner" in advancing Obama's economic agenda.

"The Department of Commerce can and will help create the jobs and the economic vitality our nation needs," Locke said.

7 hurt by gunfire at Mardi Gras

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The shootings of seven people, including a toddler, marred Fat Tuesday partying as ear-piercing gunfire sent revelers ducking for cover and brought Mardi Gras' final stream of truck floats to a horrifying halt.

The 20-month-old child was grazed by a bullet and wasn't seriously injured. Two suspects were in custody, police said.

Gunshots erupted near the Garden District about 1:40 p.m. as a stream of truck floats passed by after the last major parade, Rex, had ended. Thousands of people partied in the streets on the last day of Carnival before the violence broke out along the oak-lined Uptown streetcar line.

"It sounded like a string of fireworks, so I knew it was more than one shooter," said Toni Labat, 29, a limousine company manager. She was with her two children, a 2-year-old boy and a 10-year-old girl.

"Everybody was petrified. They hit the ground, the floats stopped, everybody on the floats ducked," Labat said. One man dragged himself on the ground screaming for help after being wounded and another man was gasping for air and bleeding from his mouth.

Police spokesman Bob Young said the victims — three men ages 50, 33 and 20, two young women ages 20 and 17, and a 15-year-old boy — were taken to area hospitals. Young said the 20-month-old baby was grazed by a bullet and not seriously hurt.

The two most seriously injured

victims underwent surgery for stomach wounds, said Officer Janssen Valencia, though he didn't know the men's conditions.

Dr. Jim Parry, 41, a surgeon at a gathering of doctors near the shooting site, ran over to tend to one man who he said had been shot in the abdomen. "He kept asking me, 'Was I shot? Was I shot?'"

"I'm off to Afghanistan this summer. Damn, this is more dangerous than Afghanistan," said Parry, an Air Force reservist.

Two men, 19-year-old Mark Brooks and 18-year-old Louis Lazone, both of New Orleans, were each booked on seven counts of attempted first-degree murder.

Brooks also faces a charge of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Police officers stand guard at a crime scene where seven people were shot and two suspects were taken into custody along the Mardi Gras parade route in New Orleans on Tuesday.

Supreme Court: No guns for domestic abusers

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Tuesday affirmed the use of a federal law barring people convicted of domestic violence crimes from owning guns, the first firearms case at the high court since last year's decision in support of gun rights.

The court, in a 7-2 decision, said state laws against battery need not specifically mention domestic violence to fall under the domestic violence gun ban that was enacted in 1996.

It is enough, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote, that the victim of such a crime be involved in a domestic relationship with the attacker. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Antonin Scalia dissented.

From The Associated Press

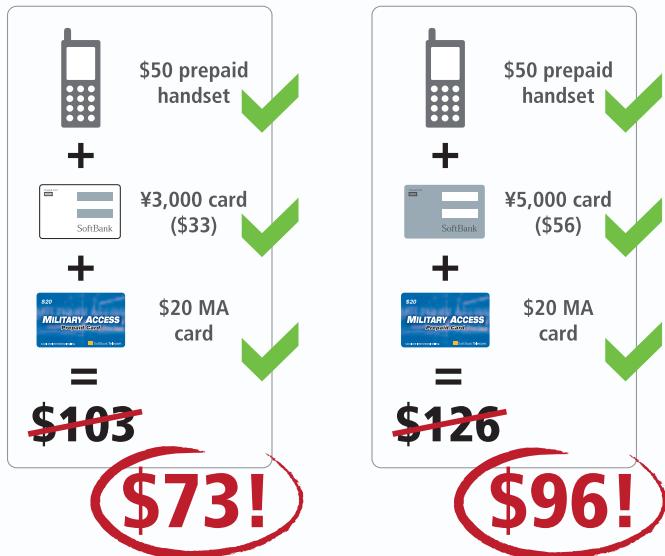
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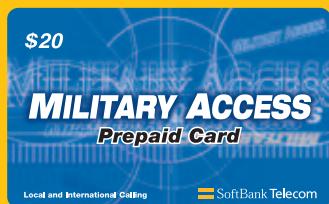
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³ Offer valid only with the purchase of a Nokia X02NK handset at a SoftBank on-base kiosk.

IN THE WORLD



PETER DEJONG /AP

Rescue workers are seen Wednesday near the wreckage of a Turkish Airlines Boeing 737-800 at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport. The aircraft, with 135 people aboard, slammed into a muddy field while attempting to land. Nine people were killed and more than 50 were injured, many seriously, officials said. The aircraft broke into three pieces on impact about two miles short of the runway.

Turkish airliner crashes in Amsterdam, killing 9

By TOBY STERLING
The Associated Press

AMSTERDAM — A Turkish Airlines jetliner plummeted out of cloudy skies and plowed into a muddy field on approach to Amsterdam on Wednesday, but remarkably some 125 people — the vast majority of those aboard — survived. The nine dead included both pilots.

The Boeing 737-800 en route from Istanbul to Amsterdam broke into three pieces when it hit the ground about two miles short of the runway at Schiphol Airport at 10:31 a.m. The fuselage split in two, close to the cockpit, and the tail broke off.

But the wreckage didn't burn and scores of people walked away from it.

Survivor Huseyin Sumer told Turkish NTV television he crawled to safety out of a crack in the fuselage.

"We were about to land, we could not understand what was happening, some passengers screamed in panic but it happened so fast," Sumer said.

He said the crash was over in five to 10 seconds.

Pieter van Vollenhoven, head of the Dutch Safety Authority investigating the cause, said it appeared the plane lost speed before crashing.

"You see that because of a lack of speed it literally fell out of the sky," he told NOS radio after visiting the crash site.

The plane's flight data recorders have been found and will be analyzed by experts.

Turkish Transport Minister Binali Yildirim said it was "a miracle" there were not more casualties.

Experts say initial results could be made public soon because of

"The fact that the plane landed on a soft surface and that there was no fire helped keep the number of fatalities low," he said.

Experts said that might also have helped avert a fire resulting from ruptured fuel tanks and lines on the underside of the fuselage, which appeared to have suffered very heavy impact damage.

Having almost reached its destination, the plane would have used up a major portion of its fuel.

Experts say crashes involving modern airliners are more survivable due to engineering advances that have resulted in strengthened structures and fire retardant technologies used for cabin seats and furnishings, as well as better emergency training of both cockpit and cabin crews.

A spokesman for investigators said two pilots and an apprentice pilot were among the dead.

Six of the injured were in critical condition, 25 were seriously hurt and 24 had slight injuries, health authorities said. Survivors were taken to 11 hospitals including an emergency field hospital set up by the military in the central city of Utrecht.

The Turkish ambassador to the Netherlands, Selahattin Alpar, told Turkish news agency Anatolia there were 72 Turks and 32 Dutch people on board. There was no information on the nationality of other passengers.

Investigators will explore a wide range of possible causes of the crash, ranging from weather-related factors such as wind shear or icing, to fuel starvation, navigational errors, pilot fatigue or bird strikes.

Experts say initial results could be made public soon because of

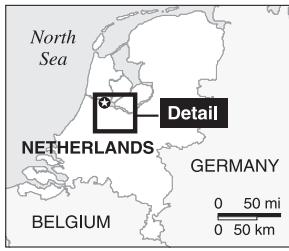
the sophistication of the Boeing 737-800's black boxes, although the full report will likely not be ready before the end of the year.

Weather at the airport near the time of the crash was cloudy with slight drizzle. But Candan Karlitekin, the head of the airline's board of directors, told reporters that visibility was good at the time of landing.

"Visibility was clear and around 5,000 yards. Some 550 yards before landing, the plane landed on a field instead of the runway," he said.

Turkish Airlines chief Temel Kotil said the captain, Hasan Tahsin, was very experienced and a former air force pilot.

Turkish officials said the plane was built in 2002 and last underwent thorough maintenance on Dec. 22.



SOURCE: ESRI

Mumbai gunman formally charged

By AJAZ ANSARI
The Associated Press

main investigator Rakesh Maria had said earlier.

Indian law requires that charges be filed against a suspect within 90 days of arrest. Kasab was formally arrested Nov. 28.

Kasab has been given a copy of the police charge sheet, Nikam said Wednesday. He also said that at least 35 other suspects in the attacks had "absconded" and authorities would continue investigating. He declined to list their names or nationalities.

If convicted on the two most critical charges — murder and waging war against India — 21-year-old Kasab will likely face the death penalty.

India has blamed the attack on Lashkar-e-Taiba, an Islamist militant group widely believed to be created by Pakistani intelligence agencies in the 1980s to fight India rule in the divided Kashmir region.

India has also said that all 10 attackers were from Pakistan.

Earlier this month, Pakistani officials acknowledged that the Mumbai attacks were partly plotted on its soil and announced criminal proceedings against eight suspects.

Sierra Leone rebel leaders found guilty

By CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY
The Associated Press

were raided and they were forced to "marry" a rebel.

Wednesday's convictions marked the first time that the charge has been successfully handed down in an international court of law.

Sesay, Kallon and Gbao all had pleaded not guilty to the charges. They shook their heads as the verdict was read.

"While the decision issued today cannot mend the broken lives and severed limbs, it goes a long way to validate the terrible suffering endured by countless Sierra Leoneans — and it puts current-day perpetrators on notice," said Corinne Dufka, an expert on Sierra Leone for Human Rights Watch.



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FACES

Doolittle gets it done

'American Idol' standout returns to spotlight

When accomplished backup singer Melinda Doolittle auditioned for the sixth season of "American Idol," she told the judges she was there to "get over the fear of standing in front of people."

On "Idol," Doolittle did more than learn to take the lead. She became a fan favorite and ended up in third place. Many said she should've won, including Simon Cowell.

Two years later, Doolittle is no longer anyone's backup. Her first album "Coming Back to You" is in stores now.

In recent interview, the 31-year-old talked about her music, her "American Idol" background, and the "guilty pleasure" songs on her iPod.

Your fans are saying, "Finally! Your album is out!"

I am so happy to be releasing this record at this point in time. I took my time with it and just really found the style of music ... a retro soul sound ... that really resonated with me.

In showbiz, they like to strike while the iron's hot. Were you worried about the break in between "Idol"?

I wasn't impatient, I wasn't even worried. I was just concerned with making sure when I did put something out it represented me well. I think that's probably one of the best things about "Idol." It awards you so many opportunities. You can release a record immediately or you can take your time with it.

You were a backup singer. Is it strange to be out in front now?

Sometimes it is a weird feeling, however, it's amazing. I didn't know how I was going to really deal with it because background singing was my comfort zone and I loved every second of it.

When I got on that stage and started doing lead songs, something came over me I was like,



AP

"I took my time with [the album] and just really found the style of music ... a retro soul sound ... that really resonated with me."

"I love to tell a story with this song, I love that part of it ... I'm gonna have my own background singers and my own coming together moment for me." Just a full circle moment.

Everybody has an image. What's yours?

Oh gosh. I'm just me! I don't know how to be anything different except for somebody who loves to tell a story on stage, so I hope that comes across. That's probably a really cool part of coming off of "American Idol" where it was reality and you've got us and that's what I have to give right now.

You've mentioned "Idol" a few times. Not every former contestant likes to talk about it.

They want to separate themselves from the show.

I don't know how you could get to this point and not talk about "American Idol." For me, it was my boot camp. It really prepared me for this moment.

Who's on your iPod right now?

Adele, (Beyoncé's) "Sasha Fierce," CeCe Winans, Jason Mraz. I do have Miley Cyrus' "Fly on the Wall" and Jonas Brothers' "Lovebug." Those two are like my guilty pleasures!

Who would you love to record a song with?

Steven Tyler. It's definitely a dream of mine to sing with Steven Tyler.

Celeb chef Batali serves up a little profanity

The king and queen of Spain got a dash of profanity from celebrity chef Mario Batali at a \$1,000-a-plate dinner during the South Beach Wine & Food Festival in Coral Gables, Fla.

At a dinner honoring Spain's growing international culinary presence, Batali dropped some royally naughty words as he hosted the event in the presence of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia.

Growing impatient when the crowd did not quiet down quickly enough after he stepped to the microphone, he used the f-word, and asked the audience if he could have "10 seconds of your time."

Batali dropped the f-word again while introducing chef Jose Andres, whose Los Angeles restaurant, The Bazaar, has been heralded by critics. He finished by grabbing Andres' bottom.

Those seated near the royal couple said the queen blanched. Gloria Estefan chortled. And Andres kept his cool.

"This is what food and wine from Spain will do to you," he said.

Musicians want radio stations to pay them fees

Sheryl Crow, will.i.am, Herbie Hancock and other U.S. entertainers are asking Congress to force radio stations to pay them when their music is broadcast.

The musicians appeared Tuesday in Congress on behalf of the musicFirst Coalition to push legislation that would require radio stations to pay them royalties for when their songs are played.

Satellite radio, Internet radio and cable TV music channels already pay fees to performers and musicians, along with songwriter royalties. But commercial AM and FM radio stations do not.

The National Association of Broadcasters opposes the fee. It says it puts thousands of radio jobs at risk. The association also says radio stations drive listeners to buy music.

Quick hits



Oscar feng shui

Kate Winslet and Sean Penn should think long and hard about where to display their coveted Oscars.

Amanda Collins practices feng shui — the ancient Chinese art of arranging objects to bring balance and harmony — and says Winslet should place her award in the southwest area of her home, since that's the direction that'll bring her luck and career advancement.

Collins suggests "The Reader" actress place her Oscar in a room where she spends a lot of time, like her living room, so it can constantly inspire her to conquer bigger and better roles.

As for Sean Penn, Collins thinks the two-time Oscar winner should display his latest Academy Award in the northwest area of his home — the direction that'll help him "maintain fame and wealth."

Both winners should incorporate the element of running water near their Oscar, since water attracts abundance.

Collins says putting a fountain east of their award, flowing towards the center of the room, will "enhance their connections" — crucial for the world of showbiz.

— Wireless Flash

Miley: Nothing 'weird' with dad

Miley Cyrus doesn't like to admit it, but she's bothered by people who think there's something wrong with the bond between her and her dad, singer Billy Ray Cyrus.

"The media has said some stuff about my dad and me being too close and too cuddly for a father and a daughter," the 16-year-old actress-singer writes in "Miles to Go," a new memoir. "For me and my dad, it's

not weird at all."

Cyrus' memoir, written with Hilary Liftin, will be published next month by Disney-Hyperion Books.

Cyrus notes that she loves her father (who co-stars on her "Hannah Montana" show), isn't afraid to show it, and "we don't let other people tell us what expressions we're supposed to have on our faces when we take a picture together!"



AP

SHIFTING GEARS

Click and Clack

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

Spider web in fuel line isn't that unusual

Dear Tom and Ray:

I was driving my 2007 Forester to work the other day when the check engine light came on (it has about 15,000 miles on it). I brought it in to the dealer, and they checked it out. The computer said it was code P1443, Evaporation Control Solenoid Malfunction. They cleaned a spider web out of the charcoal canister hose. Does this sound right, or am I getting hosed? (It was covered by the warranty — but I am suspicious that something else might actually be wrong with the vehicle and will reappear after the warranty runs out). What do you think? — Mary

TOM: Believe it or not, Mary, this is said to be a pretty common problem. We've never seen it in our shop, but we've read about it. I guess gasoline is the Chanel No. 5 of the arachnid world.

RAY: We've seen a number of service bulletins over the years alerting us to the dreaded spider-web-in-the-fuel-line problem.

In your case, there probably was a bunch of webby stuff in the fresh-air intake line to the evaporative emissions canister.

That was preventing the fuel tank from breathing properly (fresh air has to enter the gas tank to fill up the space left by the used gasoline; otherwise, the tank will slowly implode). That set off your check engine light.

TOM: So I don't think the dealer is hiding anything, or trying to cover up some other problem. I'd guess that he told you exactly what was wrong, and he fixed it.

RAY: Of course, in order to prevent this from happening again, he'll want to sell you the specially made Subaru Bird of Prey to eat any future little "line blockers."

Got a question about cars? E-mail Click and Clack by visiting the Car Talk Web site at www.cartalk.com.

King Features Syndicate



GENERAL MOTORS/SHNS

LaCrosse leads Buick's lineup

BY RICHARD WILLIAMSON

Scripps Howard News Service

Now that Buick is officially part of the General Motors survival plan, the upscale brand must enhance its relevance to younger buyers.

A big part of that effort is the 2010 LaCrosse, an elegant but sporty sedan that bears little resemblance to the first generation model.

The 2010 LaCrosse turns heads with a swept design somewhat reminiscent of the 1950s models in that the front end is sharp and the back end is blunt and hefty, suggesting a projectile that might be fired from a slingshot.

The bulk of the back end is accentuated by a high waistline and reduced ratio of glass to sheetmetal, a trick Chrysler put to good use in its 300 sedan.

Buick tested reactions to the LaCrosse design via the Buick Invicta show car at the 2008 Beijing Auto Show. Buick, and GM in general, are enjoying some of their strongest markets in China.

Although pricing has not been announced, it would be very surprising to see Buick transcend current pricing by much, given the weakness of the market. The 2009 LaCrosse retails in the \$26,000 to \$33,000 range.

The 2010 model will sell in front-drive or all-wheel-drive with three trim levels: CX, CXL and CXS. Shipments to showrooms

2010 Buick LaCrosse

TYPE: Front-drive, five-passenger, mid-size sedan

KEY RIVALS: Toyota Avalon, Acura TL, Chrysler 300, Lexus ES 350

POWER: 3.6-liter, 280-horsepower V6; six-speed auto transmission

FUEL ECONOMY: 17 city, 26 highway mpg; 18.4-gallon tank

should begin in early summer.

Two engines will be offered. The base 3-liter V6 with double overhead cams and 24 valves will produce 255 horses and travel 18 miles per gallon in the city and 27 on the highway.

The 3.6-liter V6 is tuned to turn out 280 horses and cover 17 mpg in the city and 26 on the highway. Both engines send torque through a six-speed Hydra-Matic transmission.

The direct injection engines create more power with less fuel and reduce vehicle emissions through greater combustion control, according to Buick engineers. Cold-start emissions fall by about 25 percent.

Buick is targeting buyers in the 35-55-year-old demographic with the LaCrosse. That might sound ambitious for a division that is battling a reputation for providing rides to the old folks' home.

Now is actually a great time to buy a new car

BY LARRY PRINTZ

The Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK, Va. — It's been a cold winter, and I'm not talking about the weather. When it comes to economic activity, the year of the ox so far has proven to be as lively as the beast it's named for. The current climate of fear has many folks paring back their spending.

But that has led retailers, car dealers included, to ratchet up the incentives to buy. So, assuming you're in a solid financial position,

is it a good time to buy a new car or truck? Yes. And here's why.

■ Inventories are high: The worst of the economic slowdown hit at a time of year when sales tend to be slow anyway. Couple that with inventories ordered during sunnier economic times and you'll find a good selection of vehicles to choose from. Just don't expect it to last. The economic slowdown has automakers slashing their production capacity. That means that come spring, when sales pick up, there will be fewer cars to choose from.

■ So are incentives: Remember how six months ago people were on waiting lists to buy a Toyota Prius hybrid? Right now, there's a \$750 cash rebate to stir interest in the vehicle. Want something cheaper? The Nissan Versa 1.8 hatchback offers a \$1,000 back — not bad for an economy car that starts at \$13,100. Want a truck? The Ford F-150, which starts at just more than \$21,000, has a \$3,000 customer rebate. Or take \$1,000 cash back and finance it for three years at zero percent. There's also a \$500 military in-

centive. And that's before discounts or trade-ins.

■ Sports cars are a good bet: Look, convertibles don't sell in January. Ditto sports cars. Buying one now is perfect timing. If you wait until spring, you won't get the deal you'll get right now.

One last thought: Beyond getting a new ride, buying a new car or truck does something more: it supports the economy, both locally and nationally. It's almost patriotic. Give it a try this weekend. Kick some tires. Run the figures. You'll be surprised.

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YOUR MONEY

IRS 'Free File' program can cut costs for many

By SUSAN TOMPOR
Detroit Free Press

Now that cheap is the new chic, why not cut back on how much you pay to do your federal income taxes, too?

Some taxpayers might be able to save from \$40 on tax software to \$200 for a tax preparer if they look into the "Free File" program through the Internal Revenue Service Web site at www.irs.gov.

The catch: You must have an adjusted gross income of \$56,000 or less in 2008 to tap into "Free File." The IRS says that income limit covers about 99 million taxpayers or 70 percent of all taxpayers, but only a tiny fraction use "Free File."

"I don't know what's not to like about it — if you qualify," said Tom Ochsenschlager, vice president for taxation for the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants in Washington.

He has used Free File to help his children, who are in their 20s, file their tax returns.

"It's a lot easier than sitting down with paper copies."

Another point: Be aware of fees to prepare and e-file state returns, even if you go through the IRS site.

If you use Free File and choose the H&R Block option, for example, it would cost \$29.95 to prepare a state income tax return. It would cost another \$29.95 to e-file that state return.

TurboTax Freedom Edition at www.irs.gov offers free tax preparation and free e-file for state returns for 21 states. However, TurboTax Freedom applies to "Free File" only if your Adjusted Gross Income is \$30,000 or less or if you are active military or you qualify for Earned Income Tax Credit.

You are under no obligation to file your state return with a preparer participating in Free File. The IRS has prohibited participants from offering refund anticipation loans via "Free File."

You will need to be careful. Make sure that you plug in the correct numbers and double-check what you have on the screen with what you have on your forms.

More money: To get a refund faster, you'd want to get that return via direct deposit. You'd need your account number as well as a routing number. The refund may be available in less than 10 days with electronic filing and direct deposit.

What do you do if you're above the \$56,000 limit?

This year, you can use what's called a "Free File Fillable Forms" service. It works well if you know how to fill out your return by yourself and want to plug in the correct numbers to file the federal return electronically for free. You'd go to www.irs.gov and go to "Free File" and then click on "Choose Tax Forms."



Geoffrey Fried, man of Barclays Capital leans on his trading post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Feb. 17. For some investors the steep declines in the stock market spell opportunity. Others are content to sit on the sidelines until they see signs of recovery.

HENRY RAY ABRAMS/AP

Staying the course not best bet for everyone

By KARA MC GUIRE
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

MINNEAPOLIS — How low can it go?

That question continues to haunt investors as the stock markets hit lows not seen in years. For some investors — professional and amateur alike — the steep declines spell opportunity. Others are content to sit on the sidelines

until they see signs of recovery.

Steve Latham of Minnetonka, Minn., is in the first camp. "For people who are not affected by the downturn, this is a great time to buy stocks cheap." Latham, a financial services firm employee, hasn't changed his lifestyle or his investments.

But Mary Rollins of Plymouth, Minn., lost her job at lender GMAC more than two years ago. "I'm trying to be optimistic," said Rollins, who now works as a software developer. "But we've changed our 401(k) to more conservative investments."

Being optimistic can be tough in what Greg Zandlo, a Coon Rapids, Minn.-based certified financial planner calls a "mini Depression" — both economically and psychologically.

Zandlo predicts the days of 8 to 12 percent annual stock market returns will be replaced by lower, single-digit returns that will last at least five years, maybe more.

So he's telling clients to stay out of the market and put money in cash, stable value funds, or short-term bond funds. "You just squirrel away your nuts; opportunities will be there down the road," he said.

James Paulsen, chief investment strategist for Wells Capital Management, is sticking with his belief that there are some "wonderful" opportunities in the stock market. He can pick positive signs out of the vortex of negative news. For example, he's encouraged that stocks aren't trading at abnormal volume levels, which suggests that "a lot of sellers have already sold even though we're retesting the bottom and scaring the hell out of ourselves about banks."

Researchers at the Leuthold Group in Minneapolis rely on hundreds of technical indicators to determine the stock market's direction. The group's Major

Trend Index has been bullish for months. Doug Ramsey, Leuthold's research director, said research shows stocks are attractively priced for the first time in 25 years. He is confident that investors buying stocks today will be rewarded with annualized returns of 10 to 15 percent over the next decade or so.

If the Standard and Poor's 500 Index falls below its November 2008 closing low of 752, Leuthold mutual fund managers will override the positive-leaning major trend index, lowering the firm's exposure to stocks from 60 percent to 50 percent.

Ramsey suggests investors hedge similarly by figuring out the lowest percentage of their portfolio they'd have invested in stocks, and the highest amount, and then allocating no more than three-quarters of the highest amount to stocks. As for which stocks look good, Ramsey thinks foreign stocks are more attractively priced.

Of the 45 countries he studies, the United States is the fifth most expensive market. Small caps and growth stocks are also attractive, as are stocks of biotechnology companies. "But the key point is all of them are cheap," he said.

Cheap or not, Bob Markman of Markman Capital Management in Edina, Minn., thinks individual investors should be out of the market.

"The financial industrial complex has hoodwinked investors so much to think that they have got to 'stay the course,' they've got to 'buy and hold,' no matter what the pain is."

The place to invest today, he says, is not in his equity mutual funds, but in high-quality corporate bonds and cash. "If you're out of the market and the bull market starts, what have you lost? You get back in. But what if you stay in and you're wrong?"

TUESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

52-week				Net	%	YTD	52-wk
High	Low	Name	Last	Chg	Chg	% Chg	% Chg
13,166.69	7,105.94	Dow Jones Industrials	7,350.94	+236.16	+3.32	-16.24	-42.05
5,536.57	2,577.78	Dow Jones Transportation	2,709.90	+123.20	+4.76	-23.39	-34.83
530.57	294.34	Dow Jones Utilities	339.92	+12.57	+3.84	-8.32	-32.64
9,687.24	4,607.47	NYSE Composite	4,821.74	+187.96	+4.06	-16.25	-48.17
2,433.31	1,130.47	Amex Index	1,319.05	+25.82	+2.00	-5.62	-43.82
2,551.47	1,295.68	Nasdaq Composite	1,441.83	+54.11	+3.90	-8.57	-38.51
1,440.24	741.04	S&P 500	773.14	+29.81	+4.01	-14.40	-44.03
897.37	406.45	S&P MidCap	467.85	+19.92	+4.45	-13.08	-43.32
764.38	371.30	Russell 2000	412.48	+17.90	+4.54	-17.41	-42.50
14,564.81	7,340.74	DJ Wilshire 5000	7,833.85	+308.23	+4.10	-13.79	-43.91

NYSE

Most Active (\$1 or more)

Name Vol (00) Last Chg

BkfstAnm 4939570 4.73 +.82

SPDR 4000764 77.48 +2.83

Citigrp 3514753 2.60 +.46

SPDR Fnd 259603 8.05 +.87

GenElec 2551074 9.08 +.23

PhiLabs 2101074 2.44 +.43

WellFarg 1821372 13.65 +2.02

JPMorgCh 1818108 2.02 +.51

DixFinBull 1710860 5.62 +.21

ProutSP 1027268 19.04 +1.34

AMEX

Most Active (\$1 or more)

Name Vol (00) Last Chg

PCPrudeDLn 241763 2.06 +.16

NthtgM g 65043 1.18 +.24

GoldStr g 52505 1.51 -.30

Novadl g 41255 2.69 -.32

EldorGd g 28965 8.19 -.15

PhiLabs 2101074 1.03 +.16

WellFarg 1821372 13.65 +2.02

BarcSoil 22559 15.68 +.50

AMerCent 1818108 1.89 +.41

NwGold g 20545 1.99 -.39

Comcast 285402 13.88 +1.19

GranTra gn 19557 2.26 +.09

NASDAQ

Most Active (\$1 or more)

Name Vol (00) Last Chg

PwShs QO 1747394 28.78 +.92

Microsoft 1211923 17.17 -.04

Int'l 71467 12.73 +.65

Fidtly Invest: Amex 11020 1.45 +.17

Fidtly Invest: Amex 11020 1.45 +.17

Fidtly Invest: Oversea 549993 14.99 +.63

Intel 3736089 16.57 +.14

McCoop 3560089 6.12 +.34

Dell Inc 315862 8.26 +.27

Comcast 285402 13.88 +1.19

Apple Inc 266844 90.25 +3.30

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates			
Japanese yen (Feb. 26)	93.00	South Korean won (Feb. 26)	1,467.00
Euro costs (Feb. 26)	\$1,3149	Dollar buys (Feb. 26)	0.7605
British pound (Feb. 26)	\$1.48		
Commercial rates			
Bahrain (Dinar)	.3771	British pound	\$1.4323
Canada (Dollar)	1.2497	China (Yuan)	6.8334
Gold (Dollar)	2.497	Egypt (Pound)	5.0566
Euro (Pound)	\$1.2793/7817	Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7537
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7537	Hungary (Forint)	233.75
Israel (Shekel)	4.1925	Japan (Yen)	96.79
Kuwait (Dinar)	.2925	Kuwait (Pound)	6.8621
Norway (Krone)	6.8621	Poland (Zloty)	3.64
Philippines (Peso)	48.08	Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
Poland (Zloty)	3.64	Singapore (Dollar)	1.5264
South Korea (Won)	1,495.79	Southwitzerland (Franc)	1.1613
Switzerland (Franc)	1.1613	Thailand (Baht)	35.84
Turkey (New Lira)	1.6916	Turkey (New Lira)	1.6916
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the countries of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is represented in dollars-to-euro.)			

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc close			
Gold	.....	\$969.10	
Silver	.....	\$13,993	

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	.....	3.25
Discount rate	.....	0.50
Federal funds market rate	.....	0.00-0.25
3-month bill	.....	0.29
30-year bond	3.49
Interest rates	
Sources: Bank of America, The Associated Press		

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AER news not a big shocker

Anybody who is shocked by the Army Emergency Relief debacle ("Charity for GIs gets low marks in giving back," article, Feb. 24) was probably also shocked by the Red Cross' similar situation and the Feed the Children one, too.

The road to hell is often paved with good intentions. I have seen my soldiers turned away by AER in the past and, because of that, quit donating to it for a while. I've also seen serious pressure put on soldiers to "donate" to this dubious organization.

The most shocking part I read though was that, due to the recession, it is going to "trim back relief." Umm, What? Wouldn't you think that a charitable organization should step up its charity in tougher times? It really needs to try to do some spin/damage control now and salvage what's left of its (cough) good name. Wow!

Sgt. 1st Class Chris Russell
Vilseck, Germany

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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and finally more blacks will be given the opportunity to achieve those leadership ranks instead of being judged by their race." However, the demographics of our military and America itself do not back up his claim.

U.S. Census Bureau estimates show whites made up 74 percent of the population and blacks made up 12 percent in 2008. A 2008 Heritage Foundation study on the demographics of the U.S. military states that 65 percent of enlisted recruits were white and 12 percent were black; 65 percent of ROTC grads were white and 12 percent black; and 81 percent of the academics' grads were white and 6 percent black. The total force in 2008 was 75 percent white and 18 percent black.

We can conclude from this data that the armed forces are a very accurate representation of our population and the number of blacks/whites in leadership positions is proportionate to the demographics of the military. The disproportion in the number of academy grads is a clear indicator of why there are significantly fewer blacks in general officer positions.

The letter states: "Since 2003, the military recruiting of black enlisted and officers has continued to drastically decline." However, the percentage of black recruits has declined only slightly over this time frame. All the same, we are an all-volunteer force, so how this is relevant or any fault of the government or armed forces is beyond me.

Historically, our armed forces have been ahead of the civilian sector concerning race relations. Any member of our armed forces who works hard and studies has the opportunity to attain rank and leadership roles. I would like to believe that our leaders are placed into their leadership positions based solely on their qualifications, regardless of race.

Tech. Sgt. Cory L. Cross
Ramstein Air Base, Germany

Let's work together

Usually while reading "the Stripes," I get to the letters section and just agree or disagree with the letters. However, I read "Overcoming labels, stereotypes" (letter, Feb. 24) and could not have agreed more. I agree with every word.

I am of Hispanic/Anglo descent, but am not a minority. I am an American and that makes me part of the majority.

I am also tired of the "race card" being played. Every time someone is arrested or beaten, it is a racial issue. Every time a crime is committed, it is a hate crime.

Do hate crimes occur? Of course they do. Is there racism? Of course there is, but remember racism and hate crimes go in all directions and come in all colors. Not every issue is racially based, unless we make it that way.

I had the blessing to grow up in a military family and made friends of every color and creed through that time. The military is a

place where that "redneck" from the South can be best of friends with the "kid from the hood" from the New York ghetto.

We as soldiers are expected to set a standard. Let's get to work. Instead of blaming race as a reason for everything that goes wrong or has gone wrong, let us shoulder the blame for our troubles, i.e., did I get arrested because I am Hispanic, or was it because I was drunk in public and hit a cop? Did I not get promoted because of my race, or is it really because I am a substandard soldier?

Let us work harder to forge a better America. I want to leave this country a better America for my kids. Let's get to work.

Staff Sgt. Timothy J. Lovato
Baghdad

Representing the population

The writer of "Lack of black leaders" (letter, Feb. 11) states: "As the demographics of America change, so will the military,

Pluses, minuses of Obama's mortgage plan

Chicago Tribune editorial

It's easy to find fault with President Barack Obama's mortgage relief plan, and many critics have. ... The package won't satisfy everyone. Obama doesn't pretend it's a grand solution — saying that it will merely "prevent the worst consequences of this crisis from wreaking even greater havoc on the economy."

But that doesn't mean it's not worth doing. Overall, it's a sensible attempt to contain a crisis whose effects are still spreading.

The current economic downturn stems mostly from the burst housing bubble. Falling home prices have caused a surge of foreclosures. Banks holding mortgage-backed paper have seen their balance sheets erode. Lenders have cut back on lending.

All these events have stalled the econo-

my, feeding the original cycle. So extending help to struggling homeowners makes sense for everyone, not just the direct beneficiaries — just as treating tuberculosis is in the interest of those who have not been infected as well as those who have.

Obama's blueprint has two major virtues. First, it recognizes that the government can't rescue everyone. Second, it relies heavily on voluntary incentives to spur lenders to renegotiate with borrowers instead of resorting to foreclosure. It carries a price tag of \$275 billion. ...

Obama's plan would let many mortgage holders who are current on their payments and owe less than 105 percent of the value of their property refinance at a lower interest rate, through the federally backed Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. That would ease the strain on millions of homeowners who

might otherwise default.

It would also pay to get lenders to change the terms of delinquent mortgages, so that overstretched borrowers would be able to avoid foreclosure. Mortgage servicers that cut payments to 31 percent of the homeowner's income would get substantial subsidies. They would also get bonuses for reworking terms and additional fees if the borrower stays current.

Where the president goes wrong is to authorize courts to cut the mortgage balances of homeowners who file for bankruptcy. True, that would help today's borrowers. But it would also upend the established rules for home loans, thus assuring higher rates and lower availability in the future. If you want to discourage banks from mortgage lending, this is a great way to do it — and to further depress the housing sector.

By GARRY TRUDEAU



OPINION

Wrong editorial cartoon, wrong reaction

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

Cartoon outrage is becoming tedious, as is the need to explain once more why being offended is not just cause for battle.

This time it's not Muslims rioting in the streets, but the Rev. Al Sharpton leading protests against a New York Post cartoon that he and others consider racist.

Drawing on two events in the news cycle — a violent chimpanzee killed by police, and the stimulus bill — cartoonist Sean Delonas sketched a dead chimpanzee lying in a pool of blood in front of two cops with a smoking gun. The balloon read: "They'll have to find someone else to write the next stimulus bill."

If you don't get it, there's a good reason. It was a bad cartoon. It didn't work. The connection between the two events simply wasn't organic enough to evoke the necessary "Aha!" Moreover, the images carry too much free-associative freight.

The mind's eye sees the word "stimulus" and thinks President Barack Obama. The bill may have been written by congressional staffers, but it's Obama's stimulus package. The mind's eye sees a dead chimpanzee and ... strays off course, away from the news of the animal attacking a woman to a history of dehumanizing blacks.

It may be subliminal, but it's there. And dehumanization is never funny.

Cartoonists rely on readers' collective understanding of symbols and metaphor and on their unconscious connecting of images to ideas. Given that dependence, cartoonists have to be aware of the many ways those symbols might be linked within a given time and context.

The Delonas cartoon was offensive for reasons unrelated to race. No sane person enjoyed seeing or reading about police killing the chimpanzee. They may as well have

killed Bonzo. Compounding the horror of this poor animal drawn dead and bleeding was the knowledge of its gruesome attack on a woman, who at the time was in critical condition.

Not funny.

Let's add even another layer of cultural understanding — the too-oft-read headline: "White cop shoots unarmed black." One can parse the circumstances in each case, but the statistical evidence is that these shootings happen too often.

Do I think Delonas meant to convey all these layers? Not at all, though cartoonists have unconscious motivations like everyone else. He may have considered the possible racist interpretation and justified his decision because he didn't mean it that way.

Cartoonists make artistic and editorial judgments every day, though some cartoonists have better judgment than others. Even so, outrage is out of proportion to the offense, and demands for retributive justice are more dangerous than a lousy cartoon.

Everything I know about cartooning I learned during many long conversations with the late political cartoonist Doug Marlette, a giant of the industry and one of journalism's most eloquent explainers. At times like this, I wonder what he would say, though I think I know. I took notes.

If he were alive, I doubt that Marlette would find anything defensible in the cartoon in question. Although he was an equal opportunity offender, especially when it came to religion and politics, being offensive was never his objective. The goal was to be effective; offense was the occasional byproduct.

Delonas was offensive without being effective because he had nothing to say. Cops-kill-chimp/stimulus-bill-bad is not



NEW YORK POST/AP

This cartoon image, created by editorial cartoonist Sean Delonas and provided by the New York Post, appeared on that newspaper's Page Six page on Feb. 18.

the stuff of revelation. It is literal, blunt and unclever.

If (big if) Marlette had considered the chimpanzee as a vehicle for some larger point, he never would have made it a pivot point for anything that could be associated with the nation's first African-American president. No one was more attuned to the workings of the unconscious mind or more profoundly moved by the civil rights struggles against the terrorist sons of his native South. Two cops shooting an animal historically employed to portray blacks as less than human — in the context of a

black president's seminal piece of legislation — would have been not only morally repugnant but just not funny.

Nonetheless, Marlette also would have defended the cartoonist's right to fail and to offend others in pursuit of an ideal. He would have reminded all those upset by this cartoon that the freedom to offend is the very same freedom that allows them to protest when their feelings are hurt.

Be careful, he might have said, lest we lose for winning.

Kathleen Parker is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Chimpanzees belong in their home, not our homes

BY JANE GOODALL

Last week in Stamford, Conn., a chimpanzee named Travis was shot and killed after he mauled a friend of his owner. The chimpanzee lived with a widow, eating lobster and ice cream at the table, wearing human clothes and entertaining himself with a computer and television.

But as the tragedy made clear, a chimpanzee can never be totally domesticated.

The human brain is more highly developed than that of any other living creature. So why can't we learn that wild animals simply do not make good "pets"?

I believe it has a great deal to do with the fact that chimpanzees are so frequently used in entertainment and advertising. Only a month ago, Americans watching the Super Bowl may have laughed at an ad in which chimpanzees dressed as mechanics worked on a car. They seemed cute, funny and even lovable. Is it any wonder viewers might think that chimpanzees would make great pets?

Nothing could be further from the truth. Only infant chimpanzees are used in entertainment and advertising because, as they approach maturity, at about 6 to 8 years of age, they become strong and unmanageable. Chimpanzees evolved in the tropical forests of Africa, and that's where they're suited to live, roaming in groups of their own kind. A house in Connecticut was a completely alien environment for a chimp.

Yet as a "domesticated" chimpanzee, Travis could never have returned to the wild. He had never learned the array of skills necessary to survive there. The entertainment industry and pet owners rarely, if ever, provide for the long-term care of chimpanzees. Zoos don't want them

because they have not learned to interact with others of their kind. So most of these poor creatures spend the rest of their lives — as much as 50 years or more — in small cages in circuses, roadside attractions and, yes, even in the homes of individuals who lack the means to provide for them.

Meanwhile, more infant chimpanzees are bred to main-



TED SHAFFRAY/AP

Sandra Herold speaks to reporters in Stamford, Conn., on Feb. 18, two days after her chimpanzee, Travis, attacked her friend and was killed by police.

tain the supply for the entertainment industry.

The use of chimpanzees in entertainment and advertising not only condemns chimpanzees to lives they were not meant to live, it makes it hard for people to believe that these apes are actually endangered in the wild. But they are.

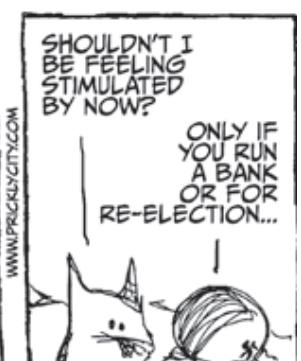
Chimpanzees are losing habitat, in part because of

commercial logging and in part because of encroachment by ever-growing human populations who live in poverty and cut down the forest to grow crops and graze cattle. This deforestation also contributes significantly to climate change. And sometimes chimpanzees are caught up in ethnic conflicts or killed for their meat, a practice that is believed to have led to the human strains of HIV.

The Connecticut tragedy should remind us not just that chimpanzees do not make good pets but that their fate is intimately tied to ours.

Jane Goodall is founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and a U.N. Messenger of Peace. Information about her work can be found at www.janegoodall.org. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Prickly City



By SCOTT STANTIS

Parents could face murder charge

MA BOSTON — Evidence shows parents accused of killing their 4-year-old daughter with an overdose of prescription medication should be tried for first-degree murder, not less-severe charges, the Massachusetts Appeals Court ruled.

There is enough evidence to find probable cause that Carolyn and Michael Riley "murdered Rebecca with deliberate premeditation and with extreme atrocity or cruelty," the court said.

It overturned the ruling of a lower court judge, who had reduced the charges to second-degree murder after finding there was no evidence of premeditation.

The Rileys say they were following the orders of Rebecca's psychiatrist, who had diagnosed the girl with bipolar disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

House asks governor to drop appeal in land rule

HI HONOLULU — The state House is asking Gov. Linda Lingle to drop her appeal of a Hawaii Supreme Court ruling that barred the state from selling or transferring former monarchy lands until Native Hawaiian claims are resolved.

The request is in a nonbinding resolution the House overwhelmingly passed. The measure has been approved by the Senate.

Lingle has rebuffed previous entreaties. She contends the state must confirm it has clear title to the 1.2 million acres ceded to it by the federal government in 1959 at statehood.

Grounded oil tanker transferring cargo

TX GALVESTON — One-third of the cargo on a grounded 800-foot oil tanker has been transferred to another vessel in an attempt to free the stranded tanker, Coast Guard officials said.

The cargo was being moved in hopes that the tanker, which ran aground 22 miles off the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, will become light enough and float again.

"We're taking into consideration the safety of the people and environment. We haven't really put a timetable on this. We're just taking it at a good pace until we get the ship floated," Coast Guard spokeswoman Renee Aiello said. She said there had been no reports of any injuries.

Escapee surrenders after day on the lam

MS COLUMBIA — The last of eight prisoners who authorities say escaped from a south Mississippi jail by chipping through a wall has turned himself in.

Marion County Sheriff Berkley Hall says Eric Ball, 19, turned himself in at the sheriff's office a day after the escape.

Hall says Ball had been hiding out in the community of Harmony, about two miles north of Columbia.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Authorities say the group somehow managed to fashion a chisel out of a piece of a bed and chip away at the wall over time to escape. The sheriff believes the escape might have been easier because razor wire on the jail's south side was taken down for construction.

Auditor faults education on procurement process

HI HONOLULU — State Auditor Marion Higa is faulting the state Department of Education for lack of leadership and controls over its procurement process.

Higa said the problem has led to indifference toward procurement compliance among department personnel.

The department's Office of School Facilities and Support Services was singled out for particular criticism.

Higa says a procurement audit discovered practices within the office that appear to be fraudulent and unethical.

She also says the office's regular outsourcing of large-dollar programs and construction management contracts appears to be inefficient and wasteful.

Man avoids death penalty in triple murder

OH NEWARK — Authorities say a central Ohio man won't face the death penalty but will serve 45 years in prison



Regal eagle

An eagle flies over the Des Moines river near downtown Des Moines, Iowa.

for a 2005 triple murder during which he spared a toddler who was later found alone, crying and coated in blood.

Iradell Crumpton of Newark was given the sentence after pleading no contest to murder and aggravated murder in an agreement with prosecutors.

Licking County Prosecutor Ken Oswalt says the deal gives families closure.

The victims, shot to death at a duplex in Newark, were Misty Butts, 21, James Bryant, 22, and John Boyce, 48. Police have said Trevor William Allen Moore, Butts' then 13-month-old son, was found physically unharmed at the home.

Authorities believe the 32-year-old Crumpton went there seeking revenge related to a drug deal.

Second thong-wearing robber gets four years

CO DENVER — The second of two Colorado men who used women's thong underwear to cover their faces while robbing an Arvada convenience store has been sentenced to four years in prison.

Joseph Richard Espinoza, 25, pleaded guilty to robbery on Aug. 11.

The Jefferson County district attorney's office says Espinoza and Joaquin Rico, 20, threw a rock through a window of the store on May 15 and climbed inside.

The men were wearing brightly colored thongs on their heads that barely covered their noses, mouths and chins.

Rico yelled at the clerk and hit her in the face several times, breaking her jaw. He then grabbed about \$100 out of the cash registers, while Espinoza stole 37 packs of cigarettes.

Chinatown apartment blaze leaves one dead

NY NEW YORK — A blaze in a six-story apartment building in Manhattan's Chinatown has killed one person.

Fire officials say another 21 people were injured, including two firefighters.

The injured were taken to Bellevue Hospital and Beth Israel Medical Center.

There was no word on the cause of the fire.

State regulators ban trendy fish pedicure

FL TALLAHASSEE — A trendy pedicure that lets fish nibble dead skin from the feet has been nipped in the bud by Florida regulators.

The Florida Board of Cosmetology has banned the procedure, even before it was known to be offered anywhere in the state. The board said salons had been inquiring about its legality and decided to issue the decision before it became a problem.

The treatment is popular in Asia and has spread to some U.S. cities. A client sticks feet, hands or other body parts in a bowl or pool, and the small fish chow down on soft decaying skin.

Texas, Washington, Massachusetts and New Hampshire have also outlawed the practice.



Flight of the snowmobiles

Snowmobilers race through the air during the Rock Maple Racing Snocross series in Ossipee, N.H.



Winter apparel

Rikki Boucher of Crested Butte, Colo., walks to work on a snowy street during a major storm that blanketed the south central Colorado Rocky Mountains.



Assistance appreciated

A paint job on a San Antonio home announces that it is under the threat of foreclosure. The owner, Mary Ann Herrera, had the words painted on the house in hopes of receiving aid.



Cool heads prevail

Morning frost clings to a dead weed that was growing along a county road north of Moscow, Idaho.



Fella can glide, too

A trio of pelicans glides along with surfer Les Carrithers as he catches a wave during the first WinterJam longboard surfing competition in front of the Boardwalk in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Guilty plea in sex-related charges at day care

MO FARMINGTON — A man pleaded guilty to seven sex-related charges for molesting children as young as an infant at a day care business his wife operated out of their home.

William Huck, 62, a retired railroad worker who had no criminal record, was arrested in March 2007. He had been scheduled for trial but agreed to plead guilty instead.

The victims included five boys and two girls, ranging in age from an infant to a 5-year-old between 1998 and 2007, but authorities have said Huck admitted to molesting up to 40 children over three decades.

The victims attended the day care operated by his wife at the family's home in Ste. Genevieve, about 50 miles south of St. Louis. According to police reports, the abuse happened during times when Huck's wife was away from the center.

Ste. Genevieve County prosecutor Tim Inman said Huck's wife cooperated in the investigation and wasn't charged.

Police chief fired for alleged insubordination

GA DECATUR — DeKalb County Chief Executive Officer Burrell Ellis has fired the county's police chief, Terrell Bolton.

Bolton has denied the insubordination charges.

The firing will set off a merit system appeal and possibly a court battle. Bolton's lawyer said firing Bolton could violate federal law since the chief is on medical leave.

Bolton was fired as Dallas police chief in 2003 following a four-year tenure marked by a fake drug scandal, lawsuits by demoted commanders and controversy over hiring practices.

Ellis said he is confident DeKalb County will prevail against any legal action.

Paraplegic says his custom car was stolen

MI DETROIT — A paraplegic man says his customized hand-controlled car was stolen after being dropped at the wrong Detroit address. Two companies involved in the delivery from California blame each other.

Walter Simon, 34, told the Detroit Free Press he paid \$1,500 to ship the Lincoln Mark VIII after his move.

Simon supplied a phone number but later got a new one. A driver for Preferred Trucking in Elk Grove Village, Ill., called the old number and was given a different Detroit address for the delivery.

Preferred Trucking spokeswoman Amelita Redzic defends the driver and blames the company Simon first contacted, Dallas-based Dependable Auto Shippers Inc. Dependable's Erin Almand says it functioned like a travel agent.

Missing teacher, male student found

WV MORGANTOWN — A Massachusetts schoolteacher was behind bars on a kidnapping charge in West Virginia

after police found her at a motel with a 15-year-old boy whose parents had complained about their relationship.

Lisa Lavoie, 24, appeared before a Monongalia County magistrate by videoconference from the North Central Regional Jail near Flatwoods, in central West Virginia. She was ordered held without bond because kidnapping in West Virginia carries a possible life sentence, said State Police Cpl. T.W. Goodnight.

Lavoie has been a teacher in Hilokey for five months and has been placed on paid administrative leave.

Family living in cave puts house up on eBay

MO ST. LOUIS — In a twist to the U.S. housing crisis, a family that has been living in a home built inside a cave in suburban St. Louis has put it up for sale on eBay.

Bidding starts at \$300,000.

Curt and Deborah Sleeper of Festus bought about 3 acres of property and a cave in Festus in 2004, after they spotted it on the Internet. The couple built a three-bedroom home inside the one-time mining cave. A large payment is due soon, and the Sleepers are trying to secure private financing. If they are able to, they may not sell. They're not accepting financial donations.

Their youngest child, Theodore Wesley, was born at their home over the weekend.

Murder charge against ex-inmate dropped

NY NEW YORK — A judge in New York has dismissed all charges against a man who spent 11 years in prison for a murder he did not commit.

Justice William Mogelescu granted the Bronx district attorney's motion and threw out the charges against 34-year-old Michael Clancy of Pelham Bay. The elevator repairman was arrested in March 1997 in the killing of John Buono. He was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison.

The conviction was overturned last April after an informant told authorities he was present when another man killed Buono. Defense lawyer Ronald Kuby says a second informant later confirmed Clancy's innocence.

Proposal to name state berry is squished

OR SALEM — Put in a jam by one sour response, Oregon lawmakers are chucking a plan to designate a state berry.

Resolution sponsors and the Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission wanted to honor the marionberry. The sweet blackberry variety was bred at Oregon State University and grows almost exclusively in Marion County.

Other berry interests — rasp, blue and straw — assented, but a grower of another blackberry variety objected. The Oregonian newspaper reported the commission then backed down.

Rep. Vicki Berger yanked her resolution. Given stickier economic issues to tackle, she says she's "not going to bat over internal disputes in the berry community."

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

It's always delightful when astrological aspects can be noticed and enjoyed without the use of a telescope. Venus flirts with the moon and you can witness her antics at dusk. Her bright star-like appearance will be set off by the crescent Aries moon like finely crafted jewelry. When you get out to see this, make a happy wish for your love life!

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (FEBRUARY 27).

Wherever you go, you create a buzz of excitement for yourself and your projects. Your fascinations take you on a journey through the spring. Your taste develops in eclectic ways. You find it easier to make a living in June. Funny people will delight you this summer, and one sweetheart takes the cake. Gemini and Scorpio adore you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

Your self-worth is not determined by how well you please others, but it certainly feels that way sometimes. Consider how you might please yourself and you'll quickly get back into a productive, satisfied groove.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You have always been tenacious. Now it's time to be strategic with your stick-to-itiveness. After all, sometimes quitting is a very positive thing to do. When you're in a no-win situation it's wise to drop out.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll be attracted to a topic of universal enjoyment, such as food. Your curiosity leads to fascinating conversations. It's no wonder you get along with so many different types of people.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Nothing changes on its own. Everything has an effect. You will transform one of your relationships without having a serious talk with the other person. The change that happens in you is enough.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll learn all you need to know from others

Holiday Mathis



that you're not alone. The thing you think should be kept secret is probably a commonplace opinion or characteristic. Wouldn't it be a relief to know others feel just as you do?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Don't let a few negative notions keep you down. Be dismissive of anything that doesn't support the idea that you can and will prevail. And if you're tired of fighting this battle alone, reinforcements are on the way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Be succinct. But a few powerful words are all that's needed to solve a problem. Too much information dulls your point. Breath is energy not to be wasted. Contain your strength.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

You're faced with a conundrum. When you were a child you loved a good puzzle. Now you're probably seeing this mystery as a knotty piece of tedious work. Try to reconnect with your joy of challenge.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

The unfolding drama seems to have nothing to do with you; still, there is a reason you are privy to these goings on. Watch the scene with your mind's eye. Frivolous details will be important.

Creators Syndicate

SU/DO/KU

© Puzzles by Pappocom

5		8	6		1
2	7	1	6		
7	1			2	5
9	1	2		7	
3		1	4	5	6
6		9		2	4
5	3			4	6
8	9	3	5		
2	5	1			7

Difficulty: Very Easy

Fill in the boxes so that each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

Yesterday's Solution

4	9	5	1	3	8	6	7	2
2	1	3	5	6	7	8	9	4
7	6	8	9	2	4	3	1	5
3	5	6	2	8	9	7	4	1
1	2	4	6	7	3	5	8	9
9	8	7	4	1	5	2	6	3
6	4	9	8	5	2	1	3	7
8	3	2	7	9	1	4	5	6
5	7	1	3	4	6	9	2	8

as people say what they mean. They can't help themselves. Listen to the "accidental" wrong choice of words. It will tell you more than the smooth part of the conversation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Thrilling business calls to you. You will enjoy putting teasers out into the world to see who bites. You love the challenge that comes with making a sale. You are a natural born "closer."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have the self-discipline to get up early to get a job done. Now your schedule needs to support you. Nothing is etched in stone. Events can be moved around, commitments can be changed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Open up and you'll discover that you're not alone. The thing you think should be kept secret is probably a commonplace opinion or characteristic. Wouldn't it be a relief to know others feel just as you do?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Don't let a few negative notions keep you down. Be dismissive of anything that doesn't support the idea that you can and will prevail. And if you're tired of fighting this battle alone, reinforcements are on the way.

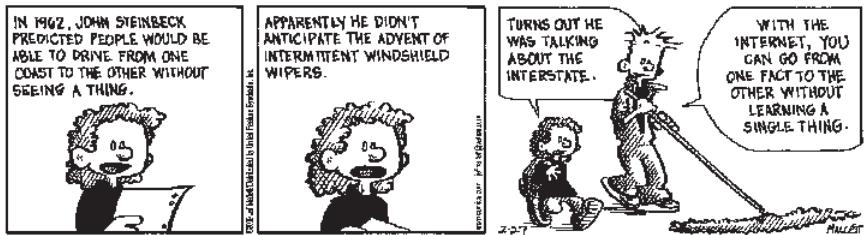
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PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The unfolding drama seems to have nothing to do with you; still, there is a reason you are privy to these goings on. Watch the scene with your mind's eye. Frivolous details will be important.

• STARS AND STRIPES •

Frazz



Garfield



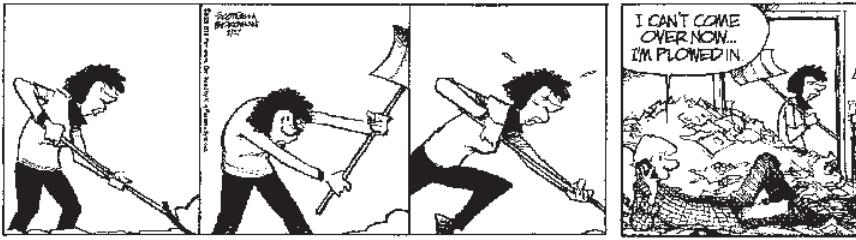
Baby Blues



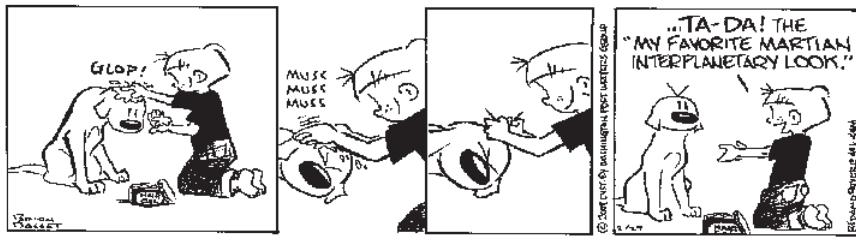
Jump Start



Zits



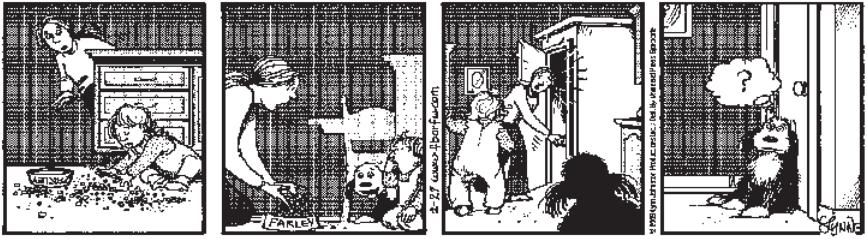
Red & Rover



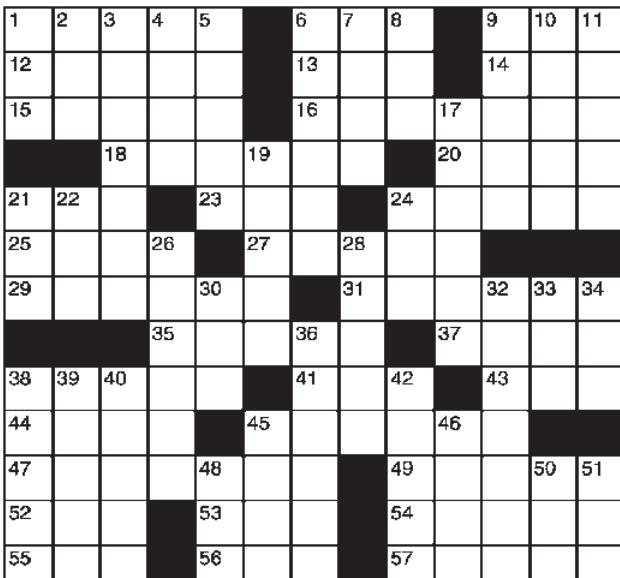
Hagar



Better or Worse



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Spills the beans
- 6 English channel?
- 9 Shade source
- 12 Genuflect
- 13 Bruins legend
- 14 Ultra-modernist
- 15 Preamble
- 16 Rifle attachment
- 18 Drink
- 20 Chaste
- 21 Field, briefly
- 23 La preceder
- 24 Stickup
- 25 Mines' output
- 27 Grill brand
- 29 Potassium source
- 31 Los Angeles suburb
- 35 Jargon
- 37 The Red and the Black
- 38 Summarize
- 41 Legal thing
- 43 Recipe meas.
- 44 Astringent
- 45 Family cars
- 47 Group of secretaries?
- 49 Hugh Laurie title role
- 52 Greek H
- 53 Brewery product
- 54 Signed a contract
- 55 Lair
- 56 "For Me and

My —" 22 401(k) alternative

57 Borscht necessity
DOWN

- 1 Schuss
- 2 Quaint stopover
- 3 Chatroom frequenter, e.g.
- 4 Bacterium
- 5 Unkempt ones
- 6 Outfielder's slip-up
- 7 Highland hillside
- 8 Weep
- 9 Boredom
- 10 Ogler's looks
- 11 Sacred song
- 17 "Lakme" and "Lulu"
- 19 Hawkeye
- 21 Drew's daytime-TV predecessor

24 Yon maiden

26 Antipasto ingredient

28 Greeted the villain

30 Pinch

32 Obi toggle

33 Petrol

34 Kreskin's claim

36 Hansel's sis

38 Sped

39 Cheer up

40 Castro, e.g.

42 Master, in old India

45 Actress Ward

46 Zilch

48 Kvetch

50 Collection

51 Mag. staffers

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-27

CRYPTOQUIP

O B N C U W D B T S W I T E U H -
U Z J C S C R A D B Z C R A O W S J Q
B J J T H H C R A C R S Q U E C R U S H U U

I S W S U : " S Q U O W C R U U N U R S ."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN ARTICLE WERE SNIPPED OUT FROM SOME NEWS PUBLICATION, WOULD IT BE CALLED A PAPER CLIP?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T

Donations make couple uneasy

Dear Abby: My husband, "Dwight," was very ill a few years ago.

Some wonderful folks held a fundraiser to help us with bills and unpaid leave.

We paid all of the outstanding medical bills and living expenses with a large portion of the money; the remainder has been set aside for an organ transplant. Dwight will need a few years down the road.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who put forth the time and effort, as well as those who donated money.

Dwight is now in remission, and we are both back to our full-time jobs.

Over the last three years, the only time we have taken

Dear Abby



for ourselves is a couple of long weekends.

Our home is old and we've had to replace some windows and do some minor repairs.

Our car is 10 years old and still runs fine, but eventually we will have to buy another one.

I'm afraid that people who helped us may think we are squandering their gift if we take a vacation or buy a car.

Even when we repaired our home, we felt guilty.

My husband is healthy right now, and we would like to enjoy ourselves before things change again. The last thing we want

to do is hurt anyone's feelings or jeopardize our friendships. Would you please share your thoughts on this?

—Living in a Glass House

Dear Living: In a situation like yours, appearances DO matter. People are extremely sensitive these days about money that is intended for one purpose being spent on another.

If you haven't already done so, to avoid any misunderstandings, put what remains of the donated monies into a separate interest-bearing account earmarked for your husband's transplant.

This will enable you to live your life.

Should anyone second-guess you, explain that you are taking the vacation or buying the next car with your earnings, and that the funds that were donated will eventually be used for the purpose for which they were intended.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby>

Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FLABE



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KLEAY



ROWDYS



www.jumble.com

TAMMOR



www.jumble.com

A:



THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME

by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

Good morning,

Mrs. Smith



2/27
WHEN THE PODIATRIST
WENT TO WORK,
IT WAS ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ON " "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's

Jumbles: HAVOC JOUST TUXEDO HELIUM

Answer: Needed to avoid biting insects —

A CLOSED MOUTH

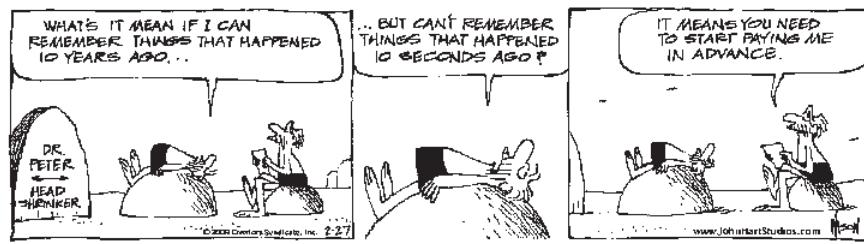
Speed Bump



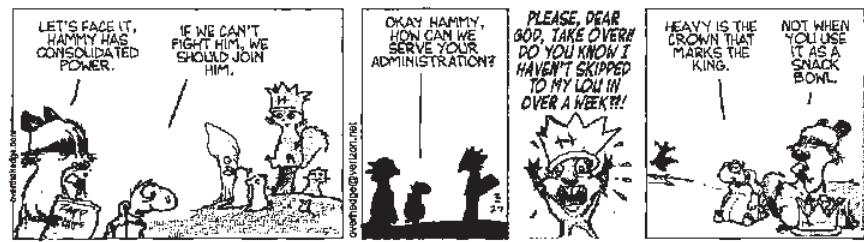
Pearls Before Swine



B.C.



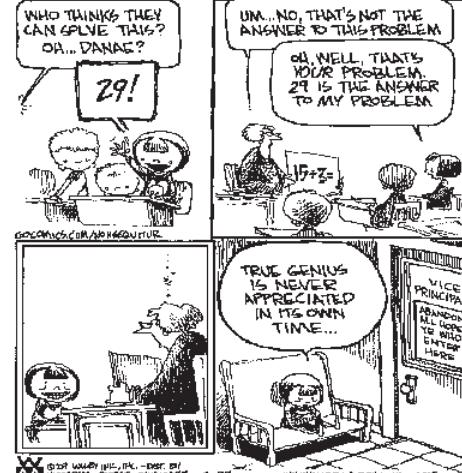
Over The Hedge



Pardon My Planet



Non Sequitur



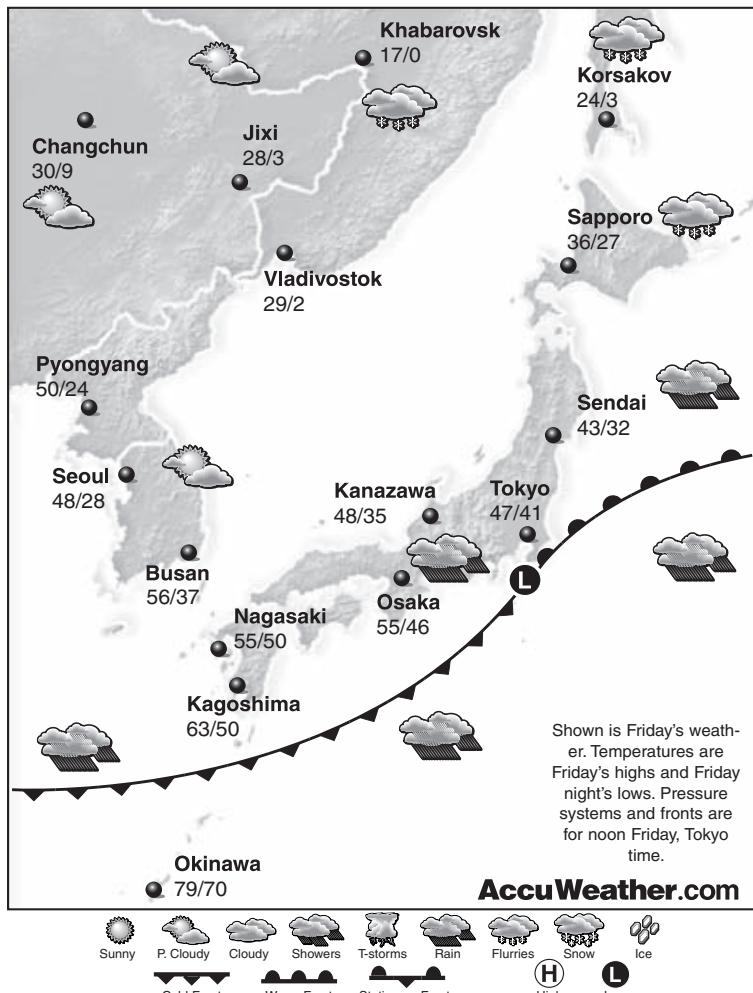
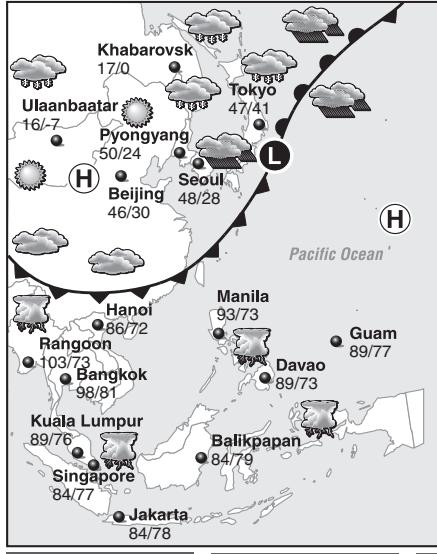
Strange Brew



TIDE TABLES

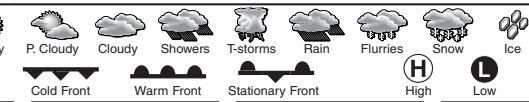
Location	Friday		Saturday	
	High	Low	High	Low
Japan				
Yokosuka	6:14 a.m.	12:05 a.m.	6:15 p.m.	12:20 p.m.
Sasebo	9:47 a.m.	3:40 a.m.	9:58 p.m.	3:58 p.m.
Naha	8:33 a.m.	2:22 a.m.	8:42 p.m.	2:39 p.m.
Hachinohe	4:43 a.m.	10:43 a.m.	4:43 p.m.	10:54 p.m.
Korea				
Cheju Island/Sogwip'o	12:15 a.m.	7:22 a.m.	12:32 p.m.	7:45 p.m.
Kunsan	5:03 a.m.	11:45 a.m.	5:15 p.m.	10:54 p.m.
Guam				
Apru Harbor	9:11 a.m.	2:57 a.m.	9:15 p.m.	3:26 p.m.
Japan				
Yokosuka	6:35 a.m.	12:32 a.m.	6:54 p.m.	12:51 p.m.
Sasebo	10:12 a.m.	4:11 a.m.	10:35 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
Naha	8:59 a.m.	2:50 a.m.	9:20 p.m.	3:13 p.m.
Hachinohe	4:59 a.m.	11:17 a.m.	5:24 p.m.	11:17 p.m.
Korea				
Cheju Island/Sogwip'o	12:46 a.m.	7:52 a.m.	12:58 p.m.	8:15 p.m.
Kunsan	5:34 a.m.	12:03 a.m.	5:43 p.m.	12:19 p.m.
Guam				
Apru Harbor	9:33 a.m.	3:29 a.m.	10:06 p.m.	4:02 p.m.

For tides at other sites apply minutes to Naha tides:
Sukku, Ora Wan: -39, Sesoko Byochi: +11 high and low tide:
Unten Ko: -7 high, -8 low, Yanobara, Buckner Bay: -44 high, -42 low.



Shown is Friday's weather. Temperatures are Friday's highs and Friday night's lows. Pressure systems and fronts are for noon Friday, Tokyo time.

AccuWeather.com



CANADA

EUROPE

MIDDLE EAST

AFRICA

LATIN AMERICA

ASIA / PACIFIC

City	Hi	Lo	W	City	Hi	Lo	W	City	Hi	Lo	W	City	Hi	Lo	W
Calgary	22	8	Sun	Amsterdam	46	41	Shwr	Ashgabat	65	45	Sun	Abidjan	86	71	Tstm
Edmonton	15	-7	Sun	Athens	52	45	Sun	Baghdad	79	50	Sun	Algiers	70	46	PClidy
Halifax	43	34	Cldy	Belgrade	43	34	Cldy	Cairo	61	53	Sun	Cape Town	81	61	Sun
Iqaluit	-8	-16	Cldy	Berlin	41	35	Cldy	Dhahran	94	70	PClidy	Casablanca	69	55	Cldy
Montreal	41	5	Rain	Brussels	50	39	Cldy	Islamabad	77	45	Sun	Durban	89	72	Tstm
Ottawa	37	15	Rain	Dublin	54	45	Cldy	Incirlik	63	49	Shwr	Freetown	90	74	PClidy
Quebec	37	1	Rain	Glasgow	53	40	Rain	Kabul	52	25	Sun	Kano	99	53	Sun
Regina	14	-4	Cldy	Lisbon	61	52	PClidy	Kandahar	79	49	Sun	Khartoum	104	61	Sun
Toronto	38	17	Rain	London	54	41	Cldy	Karachi	89	79	Sun	Kisangani	89	79	Tstm
Vancouver	41	30	PClidy	Madrid	64	36	Cldy	Kuwait	79	57	Sun	Lisbon	90	78	PClidy
Whitby	12	-4	Snowy	Moscow	30	27	Snow	Mazar-e-Sharif	83	39	PClidy	Makala	109	77	Sun
Windsor	35	21	Snow	Pes	50	47	PClidy	Tehran	58	53	Tstm	Mogadishu	91	60	Sun
Winnipeg	11	-3	Cldy	Rome	59	39	Sun	Tel Aviv	86	63	Tstm	Tabora	86	63	Tstm
Yellowknife	-3	-19	Cldy	Warsaw	37	28	Snow	Zahedan	74	48	PClidy	Timbuktu	99	65	Sun

FRIDAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

City	Hi	Lo	W	City	Hi	Lo	W	City	Hi	Lo	W	City	Hi	Lo	W
Abilene, TX	64	40	PClidy	Colorado Springs	51	24	PClidy	Hartford	50	34	Rain	New Orleans	77	63	Tstm
Akron, OH	48	24	Rain	Columbia, SC	71	52	Cldy	Helena	35	16	Snow	New York City	50	37	Rain
Albany, NY	47	30	Rain	Columbus, GA	73	54	Cldy	Honolulu	79	66	PClidy	Newark	56	37	Rain
Albuquerque	66	39	Sun	Columbus, OH	51	27	Rain	Houston	82	62	PClidy	Orlando	56	34	PClidy
Allentown, PA	51	32	Rain	Concord, NH	46	31	Rain	Huntsville	65	51	Rain	Pendleton	44	28	PClidy
Amarillo	66	28	Cldy	Corpus Christi	87	64	PClidy	Indianapolis	45	27	PClidy	Philadelphia	54	34	Rain
Anchorage	25	11	Sun	Dallas	62	41	Rain	Jackson, MS	73	55	Cldy	Portland, OR	76	52	PClidy
Asheville	59	44	Rain	Dayton	46	28	Rain	Juneau	35	25	Cldy	Prague	52	34	Rain
Atlanta	67	52	Shwr	Daytona Beach	75	53	Sun	Khartoum	104	61	Sun	Seattle	47	35	PClidy
Atlantic City	54	38	Rain	Denver	51	20	Cldy	Kuwait	79	57	Sun	Shreveport	48	32	PClidy
Austin	74	40	PClidy	Den Moines	34	22	PClidy	Kuala Lumpur	78	63	Sun	Santa Fe	62	30	Sun
Baltimore	58	42	Rain	Detroit	37	15	Rain	Kuala Lumpur	48	34	Rain	Savannah	75	53	PClidy
Baton Rouge	80	64	PClidy	Duluth	13	2	Cldy	Kuwait	79	63	Sun	Santiago	88	54	Sun
Billings	36	15	Snow	El Paso	76	47	Sun	Lake Charles	71	46	Cldy	Springfield, IL	36	24	PClidy
Birmingham	69	55	Rain	Elkton	59	31	Rain	Lansing	54	36	Rain	Springfield, MO	51	30	PClidy
Bismarck	15	6	Snow	Lexington	46	22	Rain	Las Vegas	54	36	Rain	Tampa	75	52	PClidy
Boise	48	29	Fly	Lincoln	42	23	PClidy	Louisville	60	43	Rain	Toledo	39	20	Rain
Boston	51	37	Rain	Fairbanks	18	-6	Sun	Madison	68	48	Shwr	Tucson	79	47	Sun
Bridgeport	49	37	Rain	Fargo	15	5	Snow	Mobile	54	32	PClidy	Wilkes-Barre	56	35	PClidy
Brownsville	66	68	PClidy	Flagstaff	56	24	PClidy	Montgomery	65	44	Shwr	Wilmington, DE	57	36	Rain
Buffalo	42	20	Rain	Flint	32	15	Snow	Nashville	59	44	Cldy	Yakima	49	24	Cldy
Burlington	44	24	Rain	Fort Smith	59	42	PClidy	Newark	60	41	Rain	Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are high for the day.			
Caribou, ME	42	21	Rain	Fort Wayne	49	23	PClidy	Orlando	50	32	Cldy	Legend: Showers, T-storm, Snow, Flurries, Rain, Cold, Warm, Stationary, High, Low.			
Casper	38	18	Rain	Greenwood	66	47	PClidy	Philadelphia	50	32	Rain	Ice			
Charleston, SC	75	57	PClidy	Grand Junction	52	39	Sun	Phoenix	52	34	Rain	Cloudy, Low.			
Charleston, WV	50	37	Rain	Grand Rapids	35	27	Sun	Pittsburgh	64	42	PClidy	30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s.			
Charlotte, NC	65	58	Shwr	Great Falls	30	14	Snow	St. Louis	41	29	PClidy	10s, 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s.			
Chattanooga	62	50	Rain	Greensboro, NC	60	46	Shwr	St. Thomas	83	73	Shwr	20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s.			
Cheyenne	46	21	Rain	Harrisburg	51	32	Rain	Wichita Falls	61	38	PClidy	30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s.			
Chicago	32	21	Sun	Green Bay	24	6	PClidy	Mobile	75	61	PClidy	40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s.			
Cincinnati	49	33	Rain	Greensboro, NC	60	46	Shwr	Montgomery	74	57	Cldy	50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s.			
Cleveland	47	23	Rain	Harrisburg	51	32	Rain	Nashville	59	44	Rain	60s, 70s, 80s, 90s.			

For complete and up-to-the-minute worldwide weather information, go to www.stripes.com and check out the AccuWeather forecast.

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FRIDAY'S FORECAST

Northern Japan

Day: Snow at times. High 36.
Night: Cloudy. Low 27.

Kanto Plain

Day: Periods of rain. High 47.
Night: A bit of evening rain. Low 41.

Southern Japan

Day: Periods of rain. High 55.
Night: A little evening rain. Low 50.

Okinawa

Day: Partly sunny. High 79.
Night: Partly cloudy. Low 70.

Korea

Day: Clouds and sun. High 48.
Night: Mostly cloudy. Low 28.

Guam

Day: Clearing. High 89.
Night: Mainly clear. Low 77.

SATURDAY'S FORECAST

Northern Japan

Day: Cloudy, snow showers. High 34.
Night: Considerable clouds. Low 23.

Kanto Plain

Day: Periods of sun. High 51.
Night: Mostly cloudy. Low 43.

Southern Japan

Day: Partly sunny. High 59.
Night: Mostly cloudy. Low 52.

Okinawa

Day: Plenty of sunshine. High 77.
Night: Clear. Low 68.

Korea

Day: Mostly sunny. High 50.
Night: Becoming cloudy. Low 28.

Guam

Day: An a.m. shower or two. High 87.
Night: Mostly cloudy. Low 77.

SUNDAY'S FORECAST

Northern Japan

Day: Cloudy, snow showers. High 30.
Night: Cloudy. Low 23.

Kanto Plain

Day: Showers around. High 49.
Night: Overcast. Low 41.

Southern Japan

Day: Periods of sun. High 55.
Night: Mostly cloudy. Low 48.

Okinawa

Day: Plenty of sunshine. High 79.
Night: Clear. Low 68.

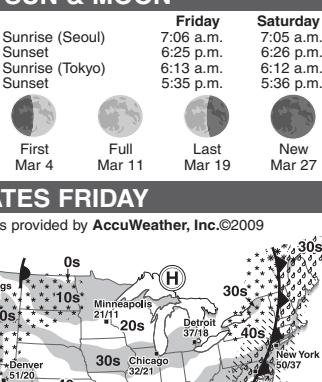
Korea

Day: Mostly sunny. High 50.
Night: Becoming cloudy. Low 28.

Guam

Day: An a.m. shower or two. High 87.
Night: Mostly cloudy. Low 77.

THE UNITED STATES FRIDAY



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- Please spell out each word. No abbreviations.
- Item prices must be listed.
- Free ads are available for private parties only. For information on commercial or in-home business ads, please call 229-3276.
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Classified advertising is accepted from DoD personnel (private party ad Classified advertisements) and all organizations which provide a service of interest to the military community (business advertisements). All ads are assessed before acceptance according to the moral and ethical judgment of Pacific Stars and Stripes. Classified advertisements must be acceptable for our general military/family readership. Pacific Stars and Stripes has the right to return any and all ads considered inappropriate for publication.



Announcements 040

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. S&S suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. S&S is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

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Autos for Sale 141

Yokota - 1990 Honda Civic. Runs well. Plenty of room. Automatic transmission. Comes with new antenna and new radio. Selling to pay off debt. JCI till 10/10. \$1200 obo. Email: John_niola@hotmail.com

Yokota - 1992 Nissan Gloria. JCI: Good 'till Dec 2010. \$2000 OBO...Price is very negotiable. Let me know your offer. CALL: Ceaser - (305) 734-9019 or 080384577823 or Jess at (305) 537-5240. Cell 08035184639

Yokota - 1996 Honda Odyssey. Blue Minivan for \$2500. Runs great. 7 seats. 10 disc CD player and MD player. Power windows/locks, A/C, 4 DR, 6.8,000 km. Contact: call Javier at 410-674-7038 @ Yokota AB

Yokota - 1999 Nissan Skyline GTS-Four. Door 2000. 6 Engine, Automatic Transmission, GPS System, Automatic Climate Control, Power Mirrors, Windows, Door locks, Tinted Windows. \$1,500.00 OBO. Please call 080-5897-5447 or e-mail a fundip502002@yahoo.com

Yokosuka, Japan - 1999 Volkswagen Golf w/5 door \$2250 Silver outside dark gray inside tinted windows very clean sporty aluminum rims great family car at a great price asking \$2250. 1 year JCI left call 080-5497-1787

Yokosuka, Japan - 2007 Silver Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo-less than 10,000 miles in perfect condition for sale! This SUV is left hand drive with a state of the art Navigation system. Comes with a low profile roof rack, custom mats and so much more! Too much to mention here. Only asking \$19,500 OBO for this mint condition Jeep Grand Cherokee. You wont get a better price anywhere else! Call Ronnie at 090-934-71879 or email surferjapan@gmail.com for further details.

Yokosuka - 1995 Silver BMW 750IL for sale!!!! Left hand drive/ enclosed subwoofer w/ 12 speakers/ new touch screen stereo DVD system great upgrade. Must sell fast! \$16,000 or best offer!! Please contact 080-6663-2185/ 080-6663-2191

Yokosuka, Japan - 1997 Nissan EL Grand \$2450 very nice 8seater sunroof clean great for family only \$2450 please call 080-5497-1787

Yokosuka, Japan - 1999 Mercedes Benz C200 White in color tinted windows, 10 disc CD player and MD player. Power windows/locks, A/C, 4 DR, 72,000 km. Price is very clean. Must sell for van. Just renewed JCI Asking \$5500 OBO. Please call 080-5897-5447 or e-mail a fundip502002@yahoo.com

Yokosuka, Japan - 2002 Volkswagen Golf w/5 door \$2250 Silver outside dark gray inside tinted windows very clean sporty aluminum rims great family car at a great price asking \$2250. 1 year JCI left call 080-5497-1787

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Yokosuka, Japan - 1999 Mitsubishi Chariot Grandis V Royal. No scratches or dents. Non Smoker. 7 Passenger Van, Strong V6, 3.000cc GDI Engine JCI 24 Jan 2011. \$ 4,500 obo. Contact 1-801-983-0802

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STRIPES CLASSIFIED

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<p>Yokota - End tables, rocking chair, and more Two glass top end tables \$10 each; platform rocking chair good condition for \$25; swivel chair for \$20; small heater for \$5; upright vacuum \$20. \$20.00. 6143584904.</p>	<p>Yokota, Japan - Beautiful House Plant house plants, plant, water once a week and the plant will live forever. Asking \$30. Please call 080-6596-9611.</p>	<p>Yokota, Japan - Large set of dishes. I have a full set of dishes for 4 settings. 8. Individual, medium, and small saucer plates, small and regular sized bowls, coffee mugs, and a serving bowl Asking \$75 OBO. Please e-mail hummershea@att.net</p>	<p>U.S. Army Medical Department Activity, Japan Camp Zama, Japan</p> <p>Physical Therapist, Intermittent (240 hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides physical therapy service in the areas of physical disabilities and neuromuscular dysfunctions in patients ranging from the very elderly. <p>Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Bachelor's degree or higher in Physical Therapy from an accredited school in the United States. Two years clinical physical therapy experience with training in manual therapy skills is preferred. Must have a permanent, full, and unrestricted license to practice physical therapy in a State, District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or a territory of the United States. <p>Other Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This position requires a signed statement due to requirements of seasonal influenza vaccination as a condition of employment. Selection of a non-current employee will be withdrawn due to refusal of seasonal influenza vaccination. If refusal is due to medical and/or religious reasons, a statement from a credible source is required. <p>This is a contract position open to SOFA status applicants. Resumes may be sent to yoshiyasa.Aooki@us.army.mil. Resumes must be received by April 1, 2009.</p> <p>ALL applicants shall register in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) which can be found at www.ccr.gov. Individuals not CCR registered are not eligible for a Government contract.</p>	<p>Yokota, Japan - 2 Cats. Need Loving Home I have 2 cats that need a good home. They aren't quite a year old, they are brothers, very loving. They have had their shots but are on the waiting list to get neutered due to limited slots available. I would like to keep them together if possible. I need a home that can offer a lot of attention. I need to get them in a home ASAP. I hate to give them away, but I just don't have the time with 3 kids to take care of them. Please give my boys a good home. FREE! Please email maxx9950@gmail.com</p>	<p>3 bdr/2 bth 1,460 square foot 2-story SFH for rent in Newport News, VA. Located close to CNU, Ft Eustis, Langley AFB, and Ft Monroe. Pets okay. Monthly rent is \$1,125. Please call Julie Zollner at 080-3381-6206 (cell) or 263-8437 (home).</p>	<p>Yokota, Japan - Boxed DVD set. 24 Hours - Complete Seasons 1-5 Orig. \$220 - urs for \$130 whole set. Plus - Earth - 3-D exploration from sea, forest, mountains etc. - shots from Discovery and National Geographic Orig. \$65 - urs for \$25 whole set. Friends -Complete Seasons 1-10 - I hate to see this go but am trying to get rid of excess wt for PCS move. Orig. \$249 - urs for \$170. Contact 072-946-5985</p>
<p>Yokota, Japan - Rolling trunk chests--must go now I have a few black color (Did not buy here, bought in the states) ROLLING trunk chests w/ wheels. These are great for getting organized. You could also use them for storage/holdings. Organizing a sheet of patio area. We are downsizing what we have now for our big move. We have no use for them anymore, I would like to see them put to great use. I'm only asking \$25 each trunk CHEST. I ask that only serious buyers please call us. We are not home, please leave name/number. I'm sorry I do not have pictures please come see in person. Please call 916-473-4488</p>	<p>Atsugi - Slightly used Playstation 2 Dance Factory mat with game. Only used twice. Asking \$30.00 obo. Please e-mail dgueni@yahoo.com OR call Deb at 264-7495</p>	<p>Yokota, Japan - Yamaha Home Subwoofer YST-1320 Great subwoofer in like new condition, recently upgraded to a bigger speaker. Comes with a monster cable. Asking me to call 1-720-257-6781 or email knightson@hotmail.com if you have any questions. For specs please check out the Yamaha website http://www.yamaha.com/yes/products/productdetl.html?CTID=200490&CTID=5003300</p>	<p>Yokota, Japan - Team Losi Nitro 8T 1/8 scale RC Truggy I have a Losi 8T truggy that I am selling. It comes as a roller with and OS 28xz and Mach 427 that have been modded by Pro-Mod to 2.0. It has a few extra parts, starter, motor, glow, ignition. You will have to buy the radio and servos. \$300 OBO I am at Yokota will meet half way. Please call 720-257-6843</p>	<p>Yokota, Japan - Team Losi Nitro 8T 1/8 scale RC Truggy I have a Losi 8T truggy that I am selling. It comes as a roller with and OS 28xz and Mach 427 that have been modded by Pro-Mod to 2.0. It has a few extra parts, starter, motor, glow, ignition. You will have to buy the radio and servos. \$300 OBO I am at Yokota will meet half way. Please call 720-257-6843</p>	<p>Yokota, Japan - new Jessica Simpson Sapphires. Each brand new with tags on! Add pop to a pantsuit or glam to a cocktail dress with this slim little bikini by Jessica Simpson. Made with a shimmering snake-embossed synthetic upper, the Sapphires features an easy fold-over closure with secure magnetic snap tab. The chevron pattern includes a cell phone pouch and zippered pocket for change, tokens and other small items. Whip stitched detailing at the piping and the brushed metal buckle detail on the flap offer textural appeal to this versatile bag. Original: \$70 Asking \$40/make offer please call 072-946-5985</p>	
<p>Yokota, Japan - White sofa in great condition w/pillows, asking \$500. Please call 1-305-537-5255</p>	<p>Yokota - Brand New Nintendo Wii. Never opened. If interested call (049)598-6966 or 080 5698-6325 250.o OBO</p>	<p>Yokota, Japan - 4GB iPod Nano, 3rd generation used it for a couple months and then bought an iPod Touch. It's been sitting around since then. Just like NEW! I don't have original headphones, but the black ones in the pictures work great! You can have the case too, it's black with brown trim brand is Belkin. Asking \$100 or Make an Offer! Email: mullins318@yahoo.com me please!</p>	<p>Yokota - Canon EF lenses i have the following for sale! Canon ef 28 F/2.8 225, Canon 28-135 F3.5 to 5.6 IS 200. All three are in great condition, 70-200 comes with lens hood. Upgraded to new L lenses so no need in my bag any more. Contact 08037553434</p>	<p>Yokota - Edge 490 Recumbent Exercise Bike \$125.00. Located in Yokota, So you need a way to get it to your home. cannot deliver, though it should fit in most trunks with the lid bungled down. Contact 404-478-4611</p>	<p>Yokota - Disney VHS tapes. Over 30 titles. Please e-mail for more info. Buy 1 get the other. Make an offer. dgueni@yahoo.com OR call Deb at 264-7499.</p>	<p>Yokota, Japan - Tippmann 98 Custom W/Rsp Trig LOADED! Drop forward, Camo kit 11 1/2 barrel 200z CO2, Ricochet 2k loader, 2 O-ring kits and BBD. Excellent for woods or speedball asking \$150. Please email hgerner@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Yokota, Japan - 2007 Mitsubishi Japanese Conventional/ Micro-wave Co Model RO-B1C, Micro-wave Cooks at 600 and 1000 Watts, Conventional Oven up to 300 degrees Celsius, inside measures 16x12x9 inches and can accommodate around an 18 lb Turkey, perfect for off base home cooking. Easy to use and reliable can cook anything in it. Asking \$200. Please call 080-6596-9611</p>	<p>Yokota, Japan - Microwave Works great (very strong), nothing wrong with it just upgraded to a new microwave asking \$25. Please call 1-720-257-6781</p>	<p>Yokota - Selling XBox games: \$3.00 each. Project Gotham Racing, SEGA On 2002, AF Delta Storm, Brothers in Arms, Earned in Blood (live online enabled), Tom clancy's Splinter Cell Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six 3 (live online enabled). What a deal! Contact us now! My kids are trying to sell these so they can buy other games! Contact 901-273-9939</p>	<p>Yokota - Free to a good home. 2 adult male cat. Very affectionate and loving. I am PCSing and want to make sure they have a good home. 09060438502</p>	<p>Yokota - Chihuahua puppy for sale. Male, 3 months old. Beautiful markings. Pictures available. E mail 458winmag@gmail.com or call 080-3540-6107</p>	<p>Yokota - alli weight loss pills for sale! 54 caplets left in the bottle; only used 6. Paid \$60; asking \$4.5 - o b o . C o n t a c t info & pict: gozer87@yahoo.com Move-in ready: 20March09</p>	<p>Yokota - ER Seasons 1-6 \$60. Only watched one time. Excellent condition. Paid at least \$30 per season. Contact 615-345-8867.</p>
<p>Yokota, Japan - 2007 Mitsubishi Japanese Conventional/ Micro-wave Co Model RO-B1C, Micro-wave Cooks at 600 and 1000 Watts, Conventional Oven up to 300 degrees Celsius, inside measures 16x12x9 inches and can accommodate around an 18 lb Turkey, perfect for off base home cooking. Easy to use and reliable can cook anything in it. Asking \$200. Please call 080-6596-9611</p>	<p>Yokota, Japan - DS WII PS2 Games Looking to buy inexpensive games for DS WII PS2 Reasonable price. Please call 210-547-9918</p>	<p>Yokota - Philips 10.2" DVD player. Brand new in box, never been used. Sells for 250\$ in stores. This unit will play almost anything. DVDs, CDs, memory cards, and flash drives. For region 4 sell. For more info contact 08031783849</p>	<p>Yokota - Selling Xbox games: \$3.00 each. Project Gotham Racing, SEGA On 2002, AF Delta Storm, Brothers in Arms, Earned in Blood (live online enabled), Tom clancy's Splinter Cell Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six 3 (live online enabled). What a deal! Contact us now! My kids are trying to sell these so they can buy other games! Contact 901-273-9939</p>	<p>Yokota - Free to a good home. 2 adult male cat. Very affectionate and loving. I am PCSing and want to make sure they have a good home. 09060438502</p>	<p>Yokota - Chihuahua puppy for sale. Male, 3 months old. Beautiful markings. Pictures available. E mail 458winmag@gmail.com or call 080-3540-6107</p>	<p>Yokota - alli weight loss pills for sale! 54 caplets left in the bottle; only used 6. Paid \$60; asking \$4.5 - o b o . C o n t a c t info & pict: gozer87@yahoo.com Move-in ready: 20March09</p>
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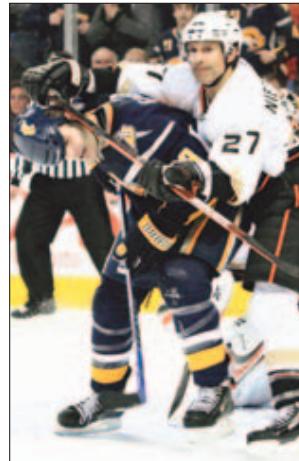
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STARS AND STRIPES

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
d-Boston	41	12	8	90	206	138
d-Washington	38	18	5	81	203	176
d-New Jersey	38	19	3	79	182	151
Philadelphia	32	17	9	73	193	171
Montreal	32	22	7	71	187	184
N.Y. Rangers	31	23	7	69	151	170
Florida	30	22	8	68	167	165
Buffalo	31	24	6	68	181	198
Carolina	31	26	5	67	164	180
Pittsburgh	29	26	6	64	185	191
Toronto	22	26	12	56	180	219
Ottawa	23	27	9	55	148	219
Tampa Bay	20	29	12	52	155	196
Atlanta	22	33	6	50	180	214
N.Y. Islanders	18	35	6	42	144	198



DAVID DUPREY/AP

Western Conference

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
d-San Jose	41	8	9	91	200	140
d-Detroit	39	13	8	86	228	177
d-Calgary	36	18	6	78	191	174
Chicago	34	17	8	76	197	148
Vancouver	30	22	8	68	181	173
Columbus	30	25	6	66	166	173
Minnesota	30	24	5	65	152	137
Dallas	29	23	7	65	174	180

Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss or shootout loss.
d-division leader

Tuesday's games

Anaheim 3	Buffalo 2
Boston 6	Florida 1
Atlanta 4	Colorado 3
Philadelphia 4	Washington 2
Montreal 3	Vancouver 0
Ottawa 4	Carolina 2
St. Louis 2	Phoenix 1
Los Angeles 2	Minnesota 1
Nashville 3	St. Louis 1
St. Louis 26	171
Phoenix 27	157
Colorado 32	186
Colorado 32	190

Buffalo's Paul Gaustad, left, is pressured by Anaheim's Scott Niedermayer (27) during the third period of Tuesday's game.

Flyers 4, Capitals 2

Philadelphia	0	1	3-4
Washington	1	1	0-2
First Period —1, Washington, Backstrom 16 (Ovechkin, Fedorov), 1:48 (pp).			
Second Period —2, Washington, Ovechkin 44, 4:19; 3, Philadelphia, C. Giroux 4 (Richards, Coburn), 9:22 (pp).			
Third Period —4, Philadelphia, Hartnell 22 (Lupul, Carter), 9:11; 5, Philadelphia, Carter 35 (Lupul, Hartnell), 10:36; 6, Philadelphia, Asham 5 (Metropolit, Cote), 12:30.			
Shots on Goal —Philadelphia 13-13-11-37, Washington 7-17-11-35.			
Power-play opportunities —Philadelphia 1 of 8; Washington 1 of 7.			
Goals —Philadelphia, Niittymaki 14-5-4 (35 shots-33 saves). Washington, Theodore 23-12-3 (37-33). A—18,277 (18,277). T—2:21.			

Canadiens 3, Canucks 0

Vancouver	0	0	0-0
Montreal	1	1	1-3
First Period —1, Montreal, Plekanec 16 (Koivu), 18:42.			
Second Period —2, Montreal, Markov 8 (Plekanec, Kovalev), 16:08 (pp).			
Third Period —3, Montreal, Lapierre 11 (Higgins, Hamrlik), 19:54 (en).			
Shots on Goal —Vancouver 8-13-13-34. Montreal 6-7-4-17.			
Power-play opportunities —Vancouver 0 of 6; Montreal 1 of 7.			
Goals —Vancouver, Luongo 19-8-5 (16 shots-14 saves). Montreal, Halak 14-10-1 (34-34). A—21,273 (21,273). T—2:23.			

Senators 4, Hurricanes 2

Carolina	1	1	0-2
Ottawa	3	1	2-4
First Period —1, Ottawa, Heatley 30 (Alfredsson, Fisher), 14:03; 2, Carolina, Eaves 3 (Brind'Amour, Ryan), 14:20; 3, Ottawa, Kelly 7 (Vermette), 14:49; 4, Ottawa, Comrie 8 (Vermette, Lee), 19:49.			
Second Period —5, Ottawa, Spezza 8 (Alfredsson, Campoli), 1:58 (pp), 6, Carolina, Babchuk 6 (Pitkanen, Jokinen), 18:11 (pp).			
Third Period —5, Carolina, 12-15-16-43. Ottawa 9-7-6-22.			
Power-play opportunities —Carolina 1 of 5; Ottawa 1 of 3.			
Goals —Carolina, Ward 25-20-3 (9 shots-6 saves). Leighton (0:00 second, 13-12). Ottawa, Auld 12-14-6 (43-41). A—16,541 (19,153). T—2:13.			

Blues 2, Coyotes 1

Phoenix	1	0	0-1
St. Louis	0	2	0-2
First Period —1, Phoenix, Doan 23 (Lindstrom, Reinprecht), 6:14.			
Second Period —2, St. Louis, Perron 8 (Woywitka, McKee), 13:42; 3, St. Louis, McClement 9 (Oshie, Polak), 15:36 (sh).			
Shots on Goal —Phoenix 9-8-9-25. St. Louis 4-15-5-24.			
Power-play opportunities —Phoenix 0 of 4; St. Louis 0 of 0.			
Goals —Phoenix, Bryzgalov 20-24-4 (24 shots-22 saves). St. Louis, Mason 12-16-5 (25-24). A—17,512 (19,150). T—2:16.			

Kings 2, Wild 1 (SO)

Los Angeles	0	1	0-0-2
Minnesota	0	1	0-1
Los Angeles won shootout 2-1			
Second Period —1, Minnesota, Miettinen 13 (Koivu), 5:48 (sh). 2, Los Angeles, Johnson 3, 14:55 (pp).			
Shootout —Los Angeles 2 (Kopitar NG, Johnson G, O'Sullivan NG, Doughty G), Minnesota 1 (Zidlicky NG, Koivu NG, Miettinen G, Burns NG).			
Shots on Goal —Los Angeles 8-7-9-1-25. Minnesota 6-10-5-3-24.			
Power-play opportunities —Los Angeles 1 of 5; Minnesota 0 of 4.			
Goals —Los Angeles, Quick 13-8-1 (24 shots-23 saves). Minnesota, Backstrom 28-17-4 (25-24). A—12,101 (18,545). T—2:17.			

Predators 5, Blackhawks 3

Chicago	0	3	0-3
Nashville	1	4	5
Second Period —1, Chicago, Byfuglien 10 (Campbell, Versteeg), 6:08. 2, Chicago, Havlat 20 (Bolland, Campbell), 8:57; 3, Nashville, Arnott 22 (Sullivan, Dumont), 14:17; 4, Chicago, Kane 20 (Brouwer), 15:17.			
Third Period —5, Nashville, Legwand 15 (Erat, Hamhuis), 2:10; 6, Nashville, Dumont 12 (Suter, Arnott), 5:11 (pp). 7, Nashville, Ward 9 (Legwand, Erat), 14:57; 8, Nashville, Weber 16 (Erat, Hamhuis), 17:10 (pp).			
Shots on Goal —Chicago 7-14-11-32. Nashville 9-7-13-29.			
Power-play opportunities —Chicago 0 of 2; Nashville 2 of 6.			
Goals —Chicago, Huet 17-12-3 (29 shots-24 saves). Nashville, Rinne 18-10-1 (32-29).			

Nashville rallies to beat Chicago

The Associated Press

Weber added an insurance goal on the power play at 17:10.

"After we made it 3-2, everybody on the bench knew the game was ours," said Dumont. "We knew what we had to do."

Arnott had scored in the second period. He also added an assist on Dumont's goal. Dumont assisted on Arnott's goal for a multipoint game. Martin Erat had three assists, all in the third period.

"We stuck with our game plan and kept working at it," Arnott said. "Everyone contributed, even the guys who didn't score. We just went out and played together and worked hard to get out of it."

The Predators had only six goals in their previous five games. Legwand thinks scoring four in a period might be the boost the offense has needed.

"Five goals in a game is kind of unusual for us," Legwand admitted. "It is a change of pace. It would be nice to score five goals every game, but that is very unlikely that is going to happen."

Dustin Byfuglien, Martin Havlat and Patrick Kane scored for the Blackhawks. Both Havlat and Kane got their 20th goals of the season.

Oilers 5, Lightning 3

Tampa Bay	0	2	1-3
Edmonton	2	1	2-5
First Period —1, Edmonton, Cole 15, 2:20; 2, Edmonton, Strudwick 2 (Gagner), 5:40.			
Second Period —3, Tampa Bay, Murphy 2 (Lecavalier), 2:30 (pp). 4, Tampa Bay, Stamkos 11 (Malone), 12:23. 5, Edmonton, Souray 16 (Cogliano), 13:15.			
Third Period —6, Edmonton, Cole 16 (St. Louis, Recchi), 2:30 (pp). 7, Tampa Bay, Murphy 3 (Lecavalier), 13:46. 8, Edmonton, Souray 17 (Brodziak), 19:58 (en).			
Shots on Goal —Tampa Bay 3-15-11-29.			
Power-play opportunities —Tampa Bay 1 of 3; Edmonton 0 of 6.			
Goals —Tampa Bay, Ramo 2-4-1 (44 shots-24 saves). Edmonton, Roloson 21-15-26 (29-26). A—16,839 (16,839). T—2:29.			

A—16,839 (16,839). T—2:29.

A—16,83

NHL roundup

Flyers come back, again get best of Caps

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Alex Ovechkin finally figured out the Philadelphia Flyers.

The Flyers, though, still know how to get the best of Ovechkin's Washington Capitals, and they managed to do it this time with a three-goals-in-five-shots spurt during the third period.

"We just felt that if we kept skating, kept pucks deep, make them turn and go back," Philadelphia coach John Stevens said, "good things would happen."

Did they ever.

After Ovechkin's assist and league-high 44th goal — his first points of the season against Philadelphia — gave Washington the lead, the Flyers came back behind Jeff Carter and Scott Hartnell to beat the Capitals 4-2 Tuesday night.

"We kind of lost our head there in the third. We didn't play smart defensively. We were running around a little bit," Washington forward Boyd Gordon said. "They've got a lot of skill up front. They've got guys that'll take advantage of it, and they definitely did."

Carter entered the night having gone a season-worst five games without a goal.

Stevens jugged his lines, but then decided to go back to Carter's usual setup in the third period, with Hartnell and Joffrey Lupul. It worked.

Philadelphia tied it 9:11 into the final period on Hartnell's 22nd goal, off assists from Lupul and Carter. Then, 1:25 later, Carter's 35th goal — with assists from Lupul and Hartnell — put Philadelphia ahead for the first time.

"They played well. They've been playing well all year," Flyers forward Mike Richards said. "You're going to go up and down sometimes throughout the year; you're not always going to get the breaks. (They are) three veteran players that have been through a lot of hockey games and stepped up when we really needed them."

Canadiens 3, Canucks 0: At Montreal, Jaroslav Halak made 34 saves for his first shutout of the season and Tomas Plekanec had a goal and an assist for the Canadiens.

Plekanec scored his 16th goal late in the first period and set up Andrei Markov's power-play goal in the second. Maxim Lapierre scored into an empty net with 5.8 seconds remaining.

Roberto Luongo stopped 14 shots for Vancouver, which ended a four-game winning streak.

Kings 2, Wild 1 (SO): At St. Paul, Minn., Drew Doughty scored the deciding shootout goal and Jonathan Quick denied Brent Burns, the Wild's final shooter, to seal it for Los Angeles.

Jack Johnson scored for the Kings and Antti Miettinen for the Wild in regulation.

Blues 2, Coyotes 1: At St. Louis, Jay McClement scored short-handed for the go-ahead goal, spoiling a four-minute Coyotes power play in the second period.



HARAZ N. GHANBARI/AP

Philadelphia goalie Antero Niittymaki keeps his eyes on the puck as Washington left wing Alex Ovechkin, right, advances toward the goal during the second period of Tuesday's game in Washington.

St. Louis improved to 26-26-8, reaching the .500 mark for the first time since Dec. 10, and has two victories and an overtime loss in the last three games despite scoring only four goals.

Shane Doan scored his 250th career goal for Phoenix, which has lost 10 of 13.

Flames 4, Blue Jackets 1: At Calgary, Alberta, Jarome Iginla scored twice and added two assists and Mike Cammalleri had a goal and two assists for the Flames.

Iginla has four goals in his last four games after a stretch in which he scored just twice in 19 games.

Calgary opened a 10-point lead over Vancouver in the Northwest Division.

R.J. Umberger scored for Columbus.

Oilers 5, Lightning 3: At Edmonton, Alberta, Sheldon Souray scored twice and the Oilers snapped a three-game skid. Erik Cole, Jason Strudwick and Andrew Cogliano also scored for Edmonton.

Cory Murphy had two goals and Steven Stamkos also scored for the Lightning, who have lost five of their last six.

Ducks 3, Sabres 2: At Buffalo, N.Y., Jean-Sebastien Giguere stopped 34 shots against the injury-depleted Sabres.

Todd Marchant, with a short-handed goal, and Mike Brown scored in the second period to break open a game tied at 1. Teemu Selanne also scored for the Ducks, who snapped a five-game winless streak at Buffalo (0-3-2).

Ales Kotalik had a goal and an assist, and Paul Gaustad scored for Buffalo, which was playing its first game without starting goaltender Ryan Miller, out indefinitely after spraining his left ankle Saturday.

Bruins 6, Panthers 1: At Bos-

ton, rookie fourth-line winger Byron Bitz scored his second and third NHL goals in the opener of the Bruins' six-game homestand.

Michael Ryder, returning from a seven-game absence after surgery to repair facial fractures, had a goal and an assist for the

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Yung Joc-rap, Base Humor-comedy

SW ASIA Los Bad Apples featuring DJ Chicken George-latin/hip-hop, Rob Jay-rap,

Greetings from Space Tour-astronaut meet & greet

MEDITERRANEAN Virginia Coalition-rock

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SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

Friday

AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.—MLB exhibition: Houston vs. Atlanta.
AFN-Xtra, 9 a.m.—College basketball: West Virginia at Cincinnati.
AFN-Sports, 10 a.m.—NBA: Cleveland at Houston.
AFN-Xtra, 11 a.m.—College basketball: Purdue at Michigan.
AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m.—NBA: Phoenix at L.A. Lakers.
AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.—College basketball: Xavier, Ohio at St. Joseph's (dld).
AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.—College basketball: Memphis at UAB (dld).
AFN-Sports, 11 p.m.—College basketball: Minnesota at Illinois (dld).

Saturday

AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.—NBA: Phoenix at L.A. Lakers (dld).
AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—NBA: Detroit at Orlando.
AFN-Xtra, 9:30 a.m.—NHL: Los Angeles at Detroit.
AFN-Pacific, 10:30 a.m.—NHL: Pittsburgh at Chicago.
AFN-Sports, 11:30 a.m.—NBA: Cleveland at San Antonio.
AFN-Xtra, 12:30 p.m.—NBA: Charlotte at Golden State.
AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.—NBA: Miami at Atlanta (dld).
AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.—NBA: L.A. Lakers at Denver (dld).

All times are Japan and Korea Standard; (dld) indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

Pro baseball

Spring training

Wednesday's games

N.Y. Mets vs. Baltimore at Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
 Florida vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla.
 Washington vs. Houston at Kissimmee, Fla.
 Atlanta vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla.
 N.Y. Yankees vs. Toronto at Dunedin, Fla.
 Philadelphia vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla.
 Cincinnati vs. Tampa Bay at Port Charlotte, Fla.
 Chicago White Sox vs. Los Angeles Angels at Tempe, Ariz.
 Los Angeles Dodgers vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz.
 Oakland vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix.
 San Francisco vs. Cleveland at Good-year, Ariz.
 Seattle vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz.
 Kansas City vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz.
 Arizona vs. Colorado at Tucson, Ariz.
 Boston vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla.

Thursday's games

St. Louis vs. Baltimore at Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
 Detroit vs. Washington at Viera, Fla.
 Houston vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla.
 Toronto vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla.
 Minnesota vs. Cincinnati at Sarasota, Fla.
 Pittsburgh vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla.
 Florida vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla.
 Tampa Bay vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla.
 Oakland vs. Los Angeles Angels at Tempe, Ariz.
 Los Angeles Dodgers vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale, Ariz.
 Milwaukee vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz.
 Arizona vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz.
 Seattle vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz.
 Texas vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz.
 Chicago White Sox vs. Colorado at Tucson, Ariz.

Deals

Fight schedule

Feb. 27

At Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, Hollywood, Fla., Glen Johnson, Miami, vs. Daniel Judah, Brooklyn, N.Y., 10, light heavyweight.
 At the Prudential Center, Newark, N.J., Tomasz Adamek, Jersey City, N.J., Johnathan Banks, Detroit, 12, for Adamek's IBF cruiserweight title; Dionisio Miranda, Miami, vs. Giovanni Lorenzo, New York, 12, IBF middleweight eliminator.

Feb. 28

At the Toyota Center, Houston, Juan Manuel Marquez, Anaheim, Calif., vs. Juan Diaz, Houston, 12, for Diaz's IBO lightweight title; Chris John, Indonesia, vs. Rocky Juarez, Houston, 12, for John's WBA featherweight title.

At Oaxaca, Mexico, Roman Gonzalez, Nicaragua, vs. Francisco Rosas, Mexico, 12, for Gonzalez's WBA minimumweight title.

College baseball

Tuesday's scores

SOUTH
 Alabama 11, Nicholls St. 4
 Auburn 17, Lipscomb 4
 Barton 4, Francis Marion 3
 Bethune-Cookman 4, Stetson 2
 Campbell 19, N. Carolina A&T 5
 Davidson 12, N.C. Central 2
 Emory 5, Maryville 4
 Georgia Southern 6, Georgia Tech 5
 Lenoir-Rhyne 12, Belmont Abbey 4
 Louisiana College 9, Loyola, NO 4
 McNeese St. 15, Ark.-Little Rock 7
 Mississippi St. 5, South Alabama 1
 N.C. State 8, High Point 2
 Northwestern St. 11, Grambling St. 1
 Nova Southeastern 16, Palm Beach Atlantic 6
 S.C.-Aiken 5, Mount Olive 3
 Wingate 10, Limestone 9
SOUTHWEST
 Abilene Christian 11, St. Mary's, Texas 7
 Houston 7, Stephen F. Austin 5
 Lamar 4, St. Mary's 6
 New Mexico 13, Texas Tech 10
 Sam Houston St. 12, Prairie View 1
 Texas 4, Texas-Arlington 3, 10 innings
 Texas A&M 11, Centenary 1
 Texas A&M-Kingsville 16, Houston-Victoria 10
 Texas-San Antonio 10, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 4
 Texas-Tyler 7, Hardin-Simmons 0

Deals

Tuesday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League
DETROIT TIGERS—Agreed to terms with RHP Freddy Dolis, LHP Clay Rapada, OF Brent Clevlen, OF Ryan Raburn and OF Wilkin Ramirez on one-year contracts.

ATLANTA BRAVES—Agreed to terms with OF Garrett Anderson on a one-year contract.

CINCINNATI REDS—Agreed to terms with OF Chris Dickerson, C Ryan Hanigan, INF-Jeff Keppinger and INF Danny Richar on one-year contracts.

HOUSTON ASTROS—Agreed to terms with RHP Alberto Arias on a one-year contract.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Agreed to terms with INF Ruben Gotay on a minor league contract.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
BOSTON CELTICS—Signed F Mikki Moore.

NEW YORK KNICKS—Waived G Stephon Marbury.

FOOTBALL
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS—Released WR Marvin Harrison.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS—Terminated the contracts of LB Donnie Edwards, QB Damon Huard and CB Patrick Surtain. Waived TE Michael Merritt.

HOCKEY
NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

BOSTON BRUINS—Assigned F Vladimir Sobotka and D Matt Hunwick to Providence (AHL).

COLORADO AVALANCHE—Activated C Paul Stastny from injured reserve.

DALLAS STARS—Placed C Toby Petersen on injured reserve. Recalled G Tobias Stephan from Bridgeport (AHL).

DETROIT RED WINGS—Assigned RW Darren McCarty to Grand Rapids (AHL).

LOS ANGELES KINGS—Recalled RW Teddy Purcell from Manchester (AHL).

ST. LOUIS BLUES—Waived Yan Stastny.

SOCCER
Major League Soccer

D.C. UNITED—Waived MF Joe Vide. Signed F Mawato Ange N'Silu.

FC DALLAS—Traded D Arnold Serioux to Toronto FC for a 2010 first-round draft pick and allocation money. Signed MF David Ferreira.

COLLEGE
CHATTANOOGA—Named Tony Coode tight ends coach.

FRESNO STATE—Named Randy Stewart, defensive coordinator, Tim Skipper defensive run-game coordinator, Will Plemons defensive line coach, Micah Aboe cornerbacks coach, Jeff Gray quarterback coach and passing game coordinator, Derek Frazee co-offensive coordinator, John Baxter tight ends coach, Joe Wade running backs coach and Keith Williams receivers coach.

Tennis

Mexican Open

Tuesday
At The Fairmont Acapulco Princess
 Acapulco, Mexico
Purse: ATP, \$1,226,500 (WT500); WTA, \$220,000 (Int'l.)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor
Singles
Men
First Round

Nicolas Almagro (4), Spain, def. Santiago Gonzalez, Mexico, 6-4, 6-2.
 Marcel Granollers (7), Spain, def. Fabio Fognini, Italy, 7-6 (3), 7-5.
 Alberto Martin, Spain, def. Marcos Daniel, Brazil, 6-4, 7-5.
 Daniel Koellerer, Austria, def. David Nalbandian (1), Argentina, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.
 Gael Monfils (2), France, def. Olivier Patience, France, 7-6 (4), 6-4.
 Tommy Robredo (3), Spain, def. Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo, Spain, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.
 Jose Acasuso (5), Argentina, def. Brian Dabul, Argentina, 6-3, 7-5.
 Carlos Moya (8), Spain, def. Pablo Andujar, Spain, 6-4, 6-2 (7), 6-2.
 Kevin Kim, United States, def. Juan Monaco, Argentina, 6-3, 3-0 retired.

Women
First Round

Flavia Pennetta (2), Italy, def. Mariya Korytseva, Ukraine, 6-3, 6-1.
 Barbora Zahlavova Strycova, Czech Republic, def. Andreja Klepac, Slovakia, 2-6, 6-1, 6-4.
 Mathilde Johansson, France, def. Rosana de los Rios, Paraguay, 6-4, 6-1.
 Maret Ani, Estonia, def. Patricia Mayr, Austria, 4-6, 7-6 (1), 6-4.
 Agnes Szavay, Hungary, def. Anna Orlik, Belarus, 7-5, 7-5.
 Greta Arn, Hungary, def. Edina Gallović, Romania, 6-2, 6-3.
 Carla Suarez Navarro, Spain, def. Viktorija Kutuzova, Ukraine, 7-5, 6-3.
 Venus Williams (1), U.S., def. Nuria Llagostera Vives, Spain, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.
 Gisela Dulko (5), Argentina, def. Ioana Raluca Olaru, Romania, 6-3, 6-2.
 Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez (8), Spain, def. Arantxa Parra Santonja, Spain, 6-2, 6-3.

Delray Beach Championships

Tuesday
At Delray Beach Stadium & Tennis Center
Delray Beach, Fla.
Purse: \$500,000 (WT250)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles
First Round

Vince Spadea, United States, def. Dennis Gremelmayr, Germany, 2-6, 7-5, 6-1.
 Gilles Muller, Luxembourg, def. Ryan Sweeting, United States, 7-6 (5), 6-2.
 Dudi Sela, Israel, def. Philipp Petzschner, Germany, 6-3, 4-1, retired.
 Yen-Hsun Lu (8), Taiwan, def. Lleyton Hewitt, Australia, 7-5, 2-6, 6-2.

Evgeny Korolev, Russia, def. Igor Kunitsyn (4), Russia, 6-4, 7-6 (3).

Jeremy Chardy (7), France, def. Tommy Haas, Germany, 7-6 (7), 6-3.

Andrey Golubev, Kazakhstan, def. Evan King, United States, 6-2, 6-4.

Mischal Zverev, Germany, def. Taylor Dent, United States, 6-4, 6-3.

Marcos Baghdatis, Cyprus, def. Ernesto Gulbis (3), Latvia, 7-5, 6-2.

Mardy Fish (1), United States, def. Frank Dancevic, Canada, 7-5, 6-3.

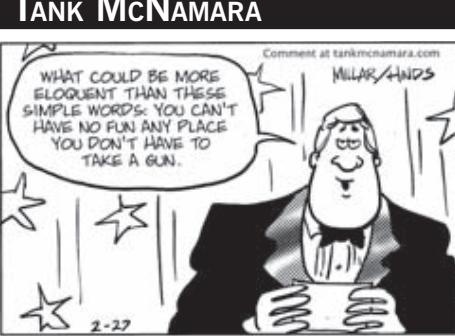
Dubai Championships

Wednesday
At Dubai Tennis Stadium
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Purse: \$2,233 million (WT500)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles
Second Round

Gilles Simon (3), France, def. Teimuraz Gabashvili, Russia, 6-1, 6-2.
 David Ferrer (4), Spain, def. Philipp Kohlschreiber, Germany, 6-4, 6-2.
 Marin Cilic (5), Croatia, def. Julien Benneteau, France, 6-3, 4-6, 7-5.
 Richard Gasquet, France, def. Simone Bolelli, Italy, 6-7 (4), 6-3, 7-5 (6).
 Fabrice Santoro, France, def. Marco Chiudinelli, Switzerland, 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (1).
 Andy Murray (2), Britain, def. Arnaud Clement, France, 6-2, 6-3.

TANK McNAMARA



College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 fared

Tuesday
 1. Pittsburgh (23-3) lost to Providence 81-73. Next: at Seton Hall, Saturday.
 2. Connecticut (25-2) did not play. Next: at No. 8 Marquette, Wednesday.
 3. Oklahoma (25-3) did not play. Next: at Texas Tech, Saturday.
 4. North Carolina (24-3) did not play. Next: at UAB, Thursday.
 5. Memphis (22-5) did not play. Next: at Louisville, Saturday.
 6. Louisville (22-5) did not play. Next: vs. No. 8 Marquette, Sunday.
 7. Duke (22-5) did not play. Next: at Maryland, Wednesday.
 8. Marquette (23-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 2 Connecticut, Wednesday.
 9. Michigan State (21-5) did not play. Next: at No. 21 Washington, Thursday.
 10. Villanova (22-5) did not play. Next: at DePaul, Wednesday.
 11. Missouri (23-4) did not play. Next: vs. Kansas State, Wednesday.
 12. Clemson (22-4) did not play. Next: vs. Virginia Tech, Wednesday.
 13. Wake Forest (20-5) did not play. Next: at N.C. State, Thursday.
 14. Arizona State (21-5) did not play. Next: at Stanford, Thursday.
 15. Kansas (23-5) did not play. Next: vs. No. 11 Mississippi, Sunday.
 16. Purdue (21-6) did not play. Next: at Michigan, Thursday.
 17. Gonzaga (21-5) did not play. Next: at Santa Clara, Thursday.
 18. LSU (24-4) beat Florida 81-75. Next: at Kentucky, Saturday.
 19. Xavier (22-5) did not play. Next: at Saint Joseph's, Thursday.
 20. Illinois (22-6) did not play. Next: vs. Minnesota, Thursday.
 21. Washington (20-7) did not play. Next: vs. No. 14 Arizona State, Thursday.
 22. UCLA (20-7) did not play. Next: at Stanford, Thursday.
 23. Florida State (21-7) lost to Boston College 72-67. Next: vs. No. 12 Clemson, Saturday.
 24. Butler (23-4) did not play. Next: vs. Youngstown State, Thursday.
 25. Texas (18-8) did not play. Next: vs. Texas Tech, Wednesday.

Tuesday's men's scores

EAST
 Boston College 72, Florida St. 67
 Cabrini 64, Keystone 62
 Caldwell 84, Dominican, N.Y. 79
 Cazenovia 114, Penn St.-Harrisburg 104, 20T
 Framingham St. 90, Worcester St. 77
Mid-Continent
 Gordon 50, Roger Williams 48
 Merrick 74, New Haven 63
 Nazareth, N.Y. 88, Elmira 78
 New England 75, W. New England 59
 Philadelphia 70, Holy Family 62
 Providence 81, Pittsburgh 73
 S. New Hampshire 70, Mass.-Lowell 62
 Stonehill 67, American Int. 58
 Syracuse 87, St. John's 58
 Westhill St. 91, Pritchard St. 86
SOUTH
 Barton 79, Belmont Abbey 70
 Embry-Riddle 101, Webber 74
 LSU 81, Florida 75
 Lane 74, Clark Atlanta 61
 Mid-Continent 81, Crichton 79
 Tulane 73, Southern Miss. 59
 Union 78, Trevecca Nazarene 75
 VMI 109, Liberty 72
 Valdosta St. 104, Flagler 61
 Wash. & Lee 84, Emory & Henry 81
 Winthrop 57, Charleston Southern 52
MIDWEST
 Creighton 65, Missouri St. 59
 Iowa St. 71, Baylor 62
 Minn.-Morris 78, Presentation 59
 N. Iowa 69, Illinois St. 67, 20T
 Ohio St. 73, Penn 59
 Texas A&M 57, Nebraska 55
 Wabash 83, Hiram 75
 Wichita St. 76, Indiana St. 70

FAR WEST

BYU 69, San Diego St. 59
 New Mexico 76, TCU 62
 Seattle 63, E. Washington 59, OT
 Utah Valley St. 77, Chicago St. 72

TOURNAMENT

American Mideast Conference

First Round

Northwestern Ohio 100, Daemen 81

Commonwealth Coast Conference

First Round

Colby-Sawyer 81, Wentworth Tech 73

Heartland Conference

First Round

Anderson, Ind., 62, Bluffton 47

New Jersey Athletic Conference

Semifinals

Richard Stockton 83, Wm. Paterson 67

SOUTH

Barton 77, Belmont Abbey 72

Clark Atlanta 94, Lane 71

Union 88, Trevecca Nazarene 70

Virginia 68, Florida St. 63

MIDWEST

Albion 58, Trine 48

Ball St. 68, E. Michigan 59

Bethel, Minn. 75, Gustavus 59

Franklin 70, Manchester 62

Martin Luther 55, St. Scholastica 41

Notre Dame 90, Syracuse 79

South Florida 76, DePaul 69

Taylor 84, St. Francis, Ind. 66

Texas 66, Missouri 56

Toledo 72, N. Illinois 68

FAR WEST

Oregon St. 70, UC Santa Barbara 51

TOURNAMENT

American Mideast Conference

First Round

Mount Vernon 77, Nazarene 74, North-western Ohio 77

North Coast Athletic Conference

First Round

Allegheny 62, Wooster 45

Ohio Wesleyan 62, Wittenberg 61

Ohio Athletic Conference

First Round

Baldwin-Wallace 70, Otterbein 68

Capital 53, Ohio Northern 40

Muskingum 70, John Carroll 57

SUNYAC Conference

Quarterfinals

Cortland St. 72, Genesee St. 41

Oneonta 46, Plattsburgh 39

Skyline Conference

Quarterfinals

Mt. St. Vincent 71, St. Joseph's, L.I. 54

Old Westbury 84, Purchase St. 74

USA South Conference

First Round

Christopher Newport 80, Peace 48

Ferrum 75, Methodist 65

Greensboro 85, N.C. Wesleyan 48

Shenandoah 76, Averett 64

Rutgers-Newark 58, Montclair St. 57

North Coast Athletic Conference

First Round

Allegheny 78, Ohio Wesleyan 75, OT

Kenyon 65, Wittenberg 60

Wooster 101, Denison 68

Skyline Conference

First Round

N.Y. Maritime 89, Mount St. Vincent 65

Old Westbury 75, Purchase 66

SUNYAC

Quarterfinals

Fredonia St. 83, Oneonta 65

USA South Conference

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Cleveland	44	32	.800	½
d-Boston	46	12	.793	—
d-Orlando	41	15	.732	4
Atlanta	32	24	.571	13
Miami	30	26	.536	15
Detroit	27	28	.491	17½
Philadelphia	27	28	.491	17½
Milwaukee	28	31	.475	18½
Chicago	26	31	.456	19½
New Jersey	25	32	.439	20½
New York	24	32	.429	21
Indiana	24	35	.407	22½
Toronto	23	36	.390	23½
Charlotte	22	35	.386	23½
Washington	13	43	.232	32

Western Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-LA Lakers	47	10	.825	—
d-San Antonio	38	17	.691	8
d-Denver	37	20	.649	10
Houston	36	21	.632	11
Portland	35	21	.625	11½
New Orleans	33	22	.600	13
Utah	34	23	.594	13
Dallas	33	23	.588	13½

Tuesday's games
 Cleveland 94, Memphis 79
 Toronto 118, Minnesota 110
 Miami 102, Detroit 91
 Chicago 120, Orlando 102
 L.A. Lakers 107, Oklahoma City 93
 San Antonio 93, Dallas 76
 Houston 98, Portland 94
 Phoenix 112, Charlotte 102

Wednesday's games
 Memphis at Indiana
 Philadelphia at Washington
 Chicago at New Jersey
 Orlando at New York
 Utah at Minnesota
 Detroit at New Orleans
 Milwaukee at Dallas
 Portland at San Antonio
 Atlanta at Denver
 Charlotte at Sacramento
 Boston at L.A. Clippers

Thursday's games
 Cleveland at Houston
 Phoenix at L.A. Lakers

Tuesday

Cavaliers 94, Grizzlies 79

MEMPHIS — Gay 6-14 1-1 13, Warrick 5-8 2-2 13, Gasol 4-10 1-4 19, Conley 4-10 1-2 12, Mayes 3-11 0-0 7, Buckner 1-4 0-0 2, Arthur 6-8 0-0 12, Ross 1-4 0-0 2, Milicic 4-1 0-0 2, Miles 3-6 1-2 7, Jaric 0-2 0-0 0, Foyle 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 34-81 6-11 79.

CLEVELAND — James 4-10 6-8 15, Wallace 1-3 0-0 2, Ilgauskas 2-8 5-6 9, Williams 6-12 3-3 18, Kinsey 3-6 4-4 11, Varejao 2-5 2-4 6, Szczerczak 1-5 0-0 2, Gibson 8-14 0-0 19, Hickson 3-7 4-4 10, Jackson 1-2 0-0 2, Johnson 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 31-72 24-29 79.

Memphis 16 20 20 23-79
Cleveland 27 31 18 18-94

Three-Point Goals — Memphis 5-17 (Conley 3-5, Warrick 1-1, Mayo 1-6, Buckner 1-0 0-2, Gay 0-2, Jaric 0-2), Cleveland 8-19 (Williams 3-5, Gibson 3-7, Kinsey 3-7, James 1-2, Ilgauskas 1-0 0-2, Varejao 2-5 2-4, Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Memphis 44 (Gasol 9), Cleveland 54 (Hickson 9), Assists—Memphis 26 (Conley 7), Cleveland 24 (James 8), Total Fouls—Memphis 20, Cleveland 17, Technical—Varejao 0, A—20,562 (20,562).

Raptors 118, T-wolves 110

MINNESOTA — Miller 4-10 1-2 9, Gomes 8-12 5-5 23, Love 6-9 3-3 15, Telfair 5-14 1-12, Foye 8-16 4-4 25, Williams 3-5 0-0 6, Carney 3-8 1-2 7, Ollie 3-5 1-2 7, Smith 2-4 0-0 4, Brown 1-3 0-0 2, Totals 43-86 16-19 110.

TORONTO — Marion 5-15 0-0 10, Bosh 10-19 6-6 26, Bargnani 10-15 5-5 26, Calderon 5-7 4-4 15, Parker 8-10 5-6 24, Graham 3-4 0-0 6, Kapono 5-10 0-0 11, Ukić 0-0 0-0. Totals 46-86 20-21 118.

Minnesota 37 19 26 28-110
Toronto 25 27 32 34-118

Three-Point Goals — Minnesota 8-24 (Foye 5-9, Gomes 2-3, Telfair 1-5, Brown 0-1, Carney 0-2, Carney 0-4), Toronto 6-15 (Parker 3-3, Calderon 1-2, Bargnani 1-2, Kapono 1-4, Ukić 0-1, Bosh 0-1, Marion 0-2), Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Minnesota 40 (Miller 12), Toronto 47 (Marlon 8), Assists—Minnesota 28 (Miller 9), Toronto 34 (Calderon 13), Total Fouls—Minnesota 19, Toronto 16, Technicals—Cardinal, Bosh, A—17,457 (19,800).

Heat 103, Pistons 91

DETROIT — Prince 6-16 6-9 18, McDowell 8-10 1-1 17, Wallace 2-7-2 3-6 6, Stuckey 3-2 8, Iversen 18-6 8-2 22, Hamilton 4-11 0-0 9, Maxiell 4-7 3-5 11, Johnson 0-0 0-0, Brown 0-0 0-0 0, Herrmann 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 35-78 20-28 91.

MIAMI — Diawara 2-5 1-2 7, Haslem 1-2 0-0 2, Wade 11-20 8-9 31, Cook 6-11 0-0 16, Beasley 4-10 3-4 11, Anthony 0-0 0-0, Moon 5-7 0-0 12, Totals 38-76 18-21 103.

Detroit 25 26 17 23-91
Miami 24 28 28 23-103

Three-Point Goals — Detroit 1-8 (Hamilton 1-3, Herrmann 0-1, Prince 0-1, Wallace 0-3), Miami 9-19 (Cook 4-8, Moon 2-2, Diawara 2-4, Wade 1-4, Chalmers 0-1), Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Detroit 43 (Prince 9), Miami 49 (Haslem 11), Assists—Detroit 17 (Prince 8), Miami 24 (Wade 16), Total Fouls—Detroit 18, Miami 25, Technical—Miami, defensive three second. A—19,600 (19,600).

Three-Point Goals — Detroit 1-8 (Hamilton 1-3, Herrmann 0-1, Prince 0-1, Wallace 0-3), Miami 9-19 (Cook 4-8, Moon 2-2, Diawara 2-4, Wade 1-4, Chalmers 0-1), Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Detroit 43 (Prince 9), Miami 49 (Haslem 11), Assists—Detroit 17 (Prince 8), Miami 24 (Wade 16), Total Fouls—Detroit 18, Miami 25, Technical—Miami, defensive three second. A—19,600 (19,600).

Bulls 120, Magic 102

ORLANDO — Turkoglu 6-14 2-4 16, Lewis 3-12 1-1 10, Howard 10-18 6-8 26, Alston 4-12 2-3 10, Lee 6-9 2-2 14, Redick 4-7 0-0 10, Battie 2-4 0-0 4, Johnson 4-9 0-0 10, Gortat 1-2 0-0 2, Richardson 0-2 0-0 0, Lee 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 40-89 13-18 102.

CHICAGO — Deng 5-12 0-0 10, Ty. Thomas 5-9 1-1 11, Noah 4-6 4-7 14, Rose 11-20 0-0 22, Gordon 9-14 2-2 20, Miller 3-7 3-3 9, Ti. Thomas 5-8 3-4 17, Salmons 3-7 5-5 11, Hinrich 3-4 0-0 6, Totals 48-85 20-22 120.

Orlando 27 27 28 20-102

Chicago 30 33 24 33-120

Three-Point Goals — Orlando 9-26 (Lewis 3-9, Johnson 2-4, Turkoglu 2-4, Redick 2-5, Lee 0-1, Alston 0-3), Chicago 4-11 (Ti. Thomas 4-6, Ty. Thomas 0-1, Salmons 0-1, Deng 0-1, Miller 0-1, Gordon 0-1). Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Orlando 44 (Howard 12), Chicago 49 (Noah 8), Assists—Orlando 18 (Lewis, Alston 5), Chicago 25 (Rose, Miller 5). Total Fouls—Orlando 22, Chicago 19, Technicals—Noah. Flagrant Foul—Gordon. A—21,902 (21,711).

Lakers 107, Thunder 93

LA. Lakers — Walton 5-7 0-0 11, Odom 3-7 0-0 8, Gasol 4-11 6-6 14, Fisher 5-10 0-0 12, Bryant 13-21 10-13 36, Ariza 4-7 0-1 8, Farmar 4-7 1-2 10, Vujacic 1-3 1-4 1, Powell 2-5 0-0 4, Totals 41-78 18-23 107.

OKLAHOMA CITY — Durant 11-20 8-9 32, Green 4-14 2-3 10, Kristic 2-8 1-2 5, Westbrook 5-13 4-4 14, Sefolosha 3-9 1-2 7, Collison 3-3 2-4 8, Weaver 5-8 3-3 16, Watson 0-4 1-2 1, Totals 33-79 22-29 93.

LA. Lakers 32 24 19 32-107

OKLAHOMA CITY 22 22 24 25-93

Three-Point Goals — LA. Lakers 7-15 (Odom 2-3, Fisher 2-4, Walton 1-1, Farmar 1-1, Vujacic 1-2, Ariza 0-1, Bryant 0-3), Oklahoma City 5-15 (Weaver 3-4, Durant 2-4, Westbrook 0-1, Watson 0-1, Green 0-2, Sefolosha 0-3), Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—LA. Lakers 43 (Gasol, Odom 8), Oklahoma City 52 (Krstic 11), Assists—LA. Lakers 21 (Gasol 6), Oklahoma City 17 (Durant 6). Total Fouls—LA. Lakers 21, Oklahoma City 18, Technicals—Ariza, Oklahoma City 1 defensive three second. Flagrant Foul—Walton. A—19,136 (19,134).

Spurs 93, Mavericks 76

DALLAS — Howard 5-17 8-10 19, Nowitzki 5-15 4-14 14, Dampier 1-2 0-0 2, Kidd 1-5 0-0 2, Wright 3-10 2-2 8, Bass 0-2 1-2 1, Carroll 0-1 0-0 0, Singleton 5-10 2-2 14, Barea 7-15 2-5 16, George 0-2 0-0 0, Totals 27-79 19-25 76.

SAN ANTONIO — Finley 6-9 0-0 16, Thomas 5-7 0-0 10, Bonner 4-11 1-2 11, Parker 15-32 7-8 37, Mason 3-10 1-2 7, Oberto 3-4 0-0 6, Bowen 0-0 0-0 0, Hill 1-5 4-6, Udoaka 0-2 0-0 0, Hairston 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 37-80 13-16 93.

Dallas 19 25 14 18-76

San Antonio 32 18 19 24-93

Three-Point Goals — Dallas 3-19 (Singleton 2-3, Howard 1-6, Barea 0-2, George 0-2, Kidd 0-3, Wright 0-3), San Antonio 6-20 (Finley 4-4, Bonner 7-7 1-2, Parker 0-2, Mason 0-5), Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Dallas 52 (Singleton 14), San Antonio 52 (Thomas 15), Assists—Dallas 10 (Kidd 4), San Antonio 18 (Parker 12). Total Fouls—Dallas 21, San Antonio 23. A—18,797 (18,797).

Rockets 98, Trail Blazers 94

PORTRLAND — Batum 5-15 1-1 14, Alldridge 7-19 7-10 21, Przybilla 2-4 0-4, Roy 10-23 4-4 24, Blake 3-7 2-9, Frye 0-1 0-2, Outlaw 7-14 0-0 15, Fernandez 2-6 0-4, Randolph 0-1 0-1 1, Rodriguez 3-1 0-0 2, Bass 2-6 0-0 0, Totals 37-84 15-21 94.

HOUSTON — Battier 3-6 0-0 8, Scola 5-9 5-6 5, Yao 6-15 3-3 15, Artest 5-13 9-10 21, Brooks 8-20 2-2 20, Hayes 3-4 0-0 6, Wafer 4-8 0-1 9, Barry 0-1 0-0 0, Lowry 2-4 0-0 4. Totals 36-82 19-22 98.

Portland 21 22 26 25-94

Houston 31 29 28 20-98

Three-Point Goals — Portland 5-15 (Batum 3-3, Outlaw 1-1, Blake 1-2, Rodriguez 0-1, Bayless 0-1, Fernandez 0-3, Roy 0-4), Houston 7-18 (Battier 2-4, Artest 2-4, Brooks 2-5, Wafer 1-2, Lowry 0-1, Barry 0-1, Bass 0-1). Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Portland 52 (Przybilla, Aldridge 8), Houston 50 (Scola 11). Assists—Portland 14 (Blake, Roy 5), Houston 20 (Artest 5). Total Fouls—Portland 24, Houston 21. Technicals—Portland defensive three second, Houston defensive three second. A—17,515 (18,043).

Suns 112, Bobcats 102

PORTLAND — Batum 5-15 1-1 14, Alldridge 7-19 7-10 21, Przybilla 2-4 0-4, Roy 10-23 4-4 24, Blake 3-7 2-9, Frye 0-1 0-2, Outlaw 7-14 0-0 15, Fernandez 2-6 0-4, Randolph 0-1 0-1 1, Rodriguez 3-1 0-0 2, Bass 2-6 0-0 0, Totals 37-84 15-21 94.

HOUSTON — Battier 3-6 0-0 8, Scola 5-9 5-6 5, Yao 6-15 3-3 15, Artest 5-13 9-10 21, Brooks 8-20 2-2 20, Hayes 3-4 0-0 6, Wafer 4-8 0-1 9, Barry 0-1 0-0 0, Lowry 2-4 0-0 4. Totals 36-82 19-22 98.

Portland 21 22 26 25-94

Houston 31 29 28 20-98

Three-Point Goals — Portland 5-15 (Batum 3-3, Outlaw 1-1, Blake 1-2, Rodriguez 0-1, Bayless 0-1, Fernandez 0-3, Roy 0-4), Houston 7-18 (Battier 2-4, Artest 2-4, Brooks 2-5, Wafer 1-2, Lowry 0-1, Barry 0-1, Bass 0-1). Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Portland 52 (Przybilla, Aldridge 8), Houston 50 (Scola 11). Assists—Portland 14 (Blake, Roy 5), Houston 20 (Artest 5). Total Fouls—Portland 24, Houston 21. Technicals—Portland defensive three second, Houston defensive three second. A—17,515 (18,043).

Suns 112, Bobcats 102

CHARLOTTE — Wallace 4-8 4-6 13, Diaw 10-12 6-8 27, Okafor 2-9 4-8 8, Felton 7-15 0-0 14, Bell 9-14 2-3 23, Randolph 3-9 0-0 8, Augustin 1-5 2-2 4, Martin 2-6 0-0 5, Howard 0-1 0-0 0, Diop 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 38-81 18-27 102.

PHOENIX — Richardson 6-10 6-6 20, Hill 3-10 0-0 6, O'Neal 7-12 6-7 20, Nash 8-10 2-2 22, Barbosa 7-15 2-2 17, Dudley 0-3 2-2, Amundson 2-3 0-0 4, Barnes 5-10 2-2 14, Dragic 1-2 3-4 5, Lopez 1-0 0-2 0. Totals 40-76 23-25 112.

Charlotte 27 28 29 18-102

Phoenix 29 30 35 18-112

Three-Point Goals — Charlotte 8-18 (Bell 3-5, Randolph 2-5, Diaw 1-1, Wallace 1-2, Martin 1-3, Augustin 0-1, Felton 0-1), Phoenix 9-19 (Nash 4-4, Richardson 2-5, Barnes 2-5, Barbosa 1-4, Dudley 0-1). Fouled Out—Wallace, Richardson, Rebounds—Charlotte 46 (Diaw 10), Phoenix 44 (O'Neal 11). Assists—Charlotte 20 (Felton 9), Phoenix 19 (Nash 5). Total Fouls—Charlotte 26, Phoenix 27. Technicals—Charlotte bench, Charlotte defensive three second, O'Neal A—18,422.

Parker scored 26 points in the first half and shouldered the load without Duncan and Manu Ginobili, who hasn't played since the Orlando this season.

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Spring training roundup

Mariners' Bedard tests repaired shoulder

Pitcher month ahead in recovery

The Associated Press

PEORIA, Ariz. — The Seattle Mariners' Erik Bedard passed his first brief test in his comeback from shoulder surgery, allowing only a groundball single during a scoreless inning in an intrasquad game Tuesday.

He then declared himself healthy and ready to pitch Friday in an exhibition game against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Bedard threw 12 pitches, six to Bryan LaHair, before he struck out the reserve first baseman to end his short morning.

"It was pretty good," Bedard said of his first work against hitters since surgery Sept. 26 to remove a cyst from his pitching shoulder and cut away some tissue.

Bedard is one month ahead of the typical, six-month recovery time from that procedure.

Asked if he felt healthy, Bedard said, "Yep."

The left-hander went 6-4 with a 3.67 ERA in 15 starts last season before the surgery. He didn't make a start after July 4.

A year ago, the Mariners traded five top prospects — including George Sherrill, a closer they could now use — to the Baltimore Orioles for Bedard.

He and the Mariners agreed last month on a \$7.75 million, one-year contract that gave Bedard a raise of \$750,000 and avoided salary arbitration. He is eligible for free agency after this season.

Bedard's raise could total more than \$1.3 million if he stays healthy in 2009. He can make \$600,000 in performance bonuses: \$75,000 for 150 innings, \$100,000 for 165 innings, \$150,000 for 180 innings, \$125,000 for 195 innings and \$150,000 for 205 innings.

That all looks possible — so far.

"He said it was great. Everything's good," Mariners manager Don Wakamatsu said of Bedard's outing Tuesday.

Bedard began throwing during the second week of December in his garage at his home near Navan, Ontario, off his portable plastic mound. By the first of the year, Bedard said the scar tissue

had loosened and he felt pain-free, as he has since. He said his shoulder troubles are completely out of his mind.

Asked this month what the difference is between now and last year, he said simply: "It just doesn't hurt."

■ At U.S. Steel, Fla., in his first game since admitting he used a banned substance, Alex Rodriguez was booed and responded with a home run.

The New York Yankees slugger opened the spring training season with a two-run homer and two walks at the Toronto Blue Jays' ballpark in Dunedin.

There were a lot of cheers, a smattering of boos and occasional cat calls from hecklers Wednesday.

■ At Port St. Lucie, Fla., Mets starter John Maine also cleared a hurdle, pitching in a game for the first time since September surgery to shave a bone spur in his right shoulder.

Maine, whose 2008 season ended Aug. 23, started an intrasquad scrimmage and came out of it pain-free. He allowed one hit with two strikeouts and a walk in two scoreless innings, throwing 16 of 25 pitches for strikes.

"My arm feels great. My body feels great," Maine said. "I just feel like it's been such a long time. The mechanics are a little off and I was rusty a little bit, but other than that, and more importantly, my arm feels good."

■ At Surprise, Ariz., Andruw Jones homered and doubled in his only at-bats during Texas' intrasquad game, the team's final tuneup before Wednesday's Cactus League opener.

"We've been working on things to get the bad habits out of my swing and getting on a good pace," said Jones, a former Atlanta star who is trying to find a spot in an already crowded Texas outfield.

Jones, who hit .158 with three homers in an injury-riddled 2008 season, is with the Rangers on a \$500,000 minor league contract that includes a chance to earn an additional \$1 million in performance bonuses.

But first, he has to make the

have exploratory arthroscopic surgery on his ailing pitching shoulder, which has kept him off the mound since the start of spring training.

There won't be a timetable for Bonser's recovery until the results of the surgery are assessed.

■ At Tucson, Ariz., finally, Chad Tracy is having a routine spring training.

The knee surgery that sidelined him, and the subsequent blood clot that threatened his life, are history.

He enters the 2009 season healthy as the Arizona Diamondbacks' projected starter at first base, and for that he is grateful.

"These guys have let me try to get back to my form and haven't given up on me, which I appreciate," Tracy said after the team's workout Tuesday. "Hopefully, I don't let them down."

Arizona manager Bob Melvin called it "a big year" for Tracy. The muscular 28-year-old who once started at third base and played a bit in right field is in the final season of a three-year, \$13.25 million contract. The club has an option to pay him \$7 million for next season, and he is out to show his worth.

"He wants to be here," Melvin said, "he wants to be a Diamondback for a long period of time, and already has been."

Given Tracy's injury-plagued recent past, it's easy to forget that this left-handed hitting redhead was once considered the young foundation of the Diamondbacks' offense. He hit .305 with 27 home runs in 2005, warming up in the last 25 games to bat .375 with seven doubles, seven homers, two triples and 25 RBIs. In 2006, he hit .281 with 20 homers and a career-best 80 RBIs.

He was struggling at the plate, trying too much to be a power hitter, in 2006, then came the problems with his right knee in 2007. In September of that year, Tracy underwent microfracture surgery. Later, doctors discovered a blood clot that, had it moved up from his leg, could have threatened his life.

Blood-thinning medication eventually resolved the problem, but Tracy's rehabilitation was set back significantly. Tracy appeared in 88 games last season, as a right-hander Boof Bonser will

batting .267 with eight homers and 39 RBIs. His future in Arizona did not look bright.

"If you go back to this time of year, even throughout the season — the way things went toward the end — I couldn't see myself in this position right now," Tracy said, quickly adding. "Nothing's for sure and I'm not taking anything for granted."

■ At Phoenix, Edgar Gonzalez threw himself into the competition for a spot in the Oakland Athletics' rotation with a solid performance in an intrasquad game Tuesday.

Gonzalez, who spent the past six years with the Arizona Diamondbacks, tossed three innings against a group of hitters that included Jason Giambi, Matt Holliday, Travis Buck, Ryan Sweeney and Bobby Crosby.

"I just wanted to go pitch by pitch today," said Gonzalez, who pitched for Hermosillo in the Caribbean playoffs two weeks ago. "My curveball was a little flat and I made a couple of mistakes."

Buck had two of the three hits against Gonzalez.

"He looked sharp," Buck said. "He's around the zone and he knows how to pitch. Those are the kind of pitchers you like to face as a hitter."

Gonzalez was released by the Diamondbacks last year after pitching the second half of the season on the disabled list with a right elbow sprain. He went 4-1 for Hermosillo in seven starts with a 4.46 ERA.

"I'm excited the A's gave me the opportunity to be here," said Gonzalez, who signed a minor league deal with the club on Feb. 9. "I want to fight for that fifth spot and if I'm not a starter, I'll be in the bullpen. Whatever they want, I'm ready for anything."

A's manager Bob Geren said Gonzalez threw nearly 100 pitches in the playoff game, and expected the right-hander to be sharp.

"I was impressed with Edgar," Geren said.

"He threw the ball well. He had good location, good movement and he changed speeds with his breaking ball pretty good."



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

The Arizona Diamondbacks' Chad Tracy follows through during batting practice in Tucson, Ariz., on Tuesday.

team.

"I'm happy to see him swinging the bat and happy to see him running around playing defense," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "Tomorrow we start for real and we'll see how things go."

The Rangers said Kris Benson, signed to a minor league contract Saturday, will start against the Royals. The 34-year-old Benson hasn't pitched in the majors since 2006.

Because spring training is longer than usual this year due to the World Baseball Classic, many teams plan to hold back their stars — especially starting pitchers — during the first week of games.

■ At Kissimmee, Fla., the Atlanta Braves completed a \$2.5 million, one-year contract with outfielder Garret Anderson after he passed a physical.

The 36-year-old Anderson had spent his entire 15-year career with the Angels, where he made three All-Star appearances and batted .300 or better seven times.

"I have no idea what to expect," he said during a news conference at Atlanta's spring training stadium. "I went through three uniform changes, but Anaheim was always home. It will be different, but my chapter with the Angels is closed."

■ In other news, Minnesota right-hander Boof Bonser will

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“As long as I’m not hurt I want to be out there.”

Grady Sizemore

Cleveland Indians center fielder

Crunch: It's all or nothing when it comes to Sizemore

CRUNCH, FROM BACK PAGE

taken advantage of the proximity since November. His days in the desert this spring are numbered.

He's leaving Sunday for Clearwater, Fla., to join Team USA to begin preparing for the World Baseball Classic, which begins March 5 and runs through March 23. Depending on how far the Americans advance, Sizemore could miss several weeks of Indians camp. He was initially hesitant to play in the WBC, but didn't want to pass up the chance to represent his country.

Like all teams, the Indians have their concerns about having one of their stars participate in the international tournament.

There's always the risk of injury, but with Sizemore, that's always the case. A former high school football standout who was recruited by the University of Washington, Sizemore plays with a fearlessness that never subsides.

During a routine popup drill at camp a few days ago, Sizemore went full bore after a ball in right-center and collided with right fielder Shin-Soo Choo. Guess who got the worst of it? Choo limped away to the trainer's room with a bruised right knee.

Sizemore jogged back to his spot in center.

“I guess he didn't know I was a linebacker,” Sizemore cracked.

It's Sizemore's all-or-nothing attitude and hustle that make him so endearing.

“It doesn't matter where he's playing. It could be a pickup game on a Little League field or in the World Series,” Wedge said. “He's going to play the game the same way.”

And if it was up to Sizemore, he would play every day.

He played in 382 successive games before his streak was snapped last April by a sprained ankle. Since 2005, Sizemore has played in at least 157 games every season.

Wedge thought Sizemore wore down in the second half last season, so he'd like to give his Gold Glove winner a few more off days in 2009.

Wedge has tried that before, only to have Sizemore respond with an incredulous, you're-not-serious look.

Sizemore can't handle arriving in the clubhouse, checking the lineup card and not seeing his name written in the leadoff spot.

“As long as I'm not hurt I want to be out there,” said Sizemore, a horrible bench-warmer. “I pace in the dugout a lot. There's a lot of up-and-down movement. I change seats. It's not a comfortable feeling. It's tough when you're watching your boys play and you're not out there.

“It's also good for the body to take a day off, but that doesn't mean I'll ever accept it.”

Sizemore has improved every aspect of his game since breaking in with the Indians in 2004. His power numbers, walks and stolen bases have risen. His arm has gotten stronger. He has be-

come selective at the plate and a smarter base runner. His batting average dipped from a high of .290 in 2006 to .268 last season, but the slight slide hasn't sounded an alarm for Wedge.

“It (batting average) is somewhat of an overrated stat,” he said. “There are so many other numbers that are more important to a team winning a ballgame. It doesn't worry me.”

During individual meetings this spring, Wedge spoke with his players about areas in which they can improve. His meeting with Sizemore didn't take long.

No, Sizemore isn't flawless. But to the Indians, he's close.

“Usually you have an idea of how good somebody can be,” Wedge said. “I just don't know with Grady.”



Cleveland Indians center fielder Grady Sizemore, top, collides with right fielder Shin-Soo Choo while fielding fly balls during a spring training workout last weekend in Goodyear, Ariz.

PAUL CONNORS/AP

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Sports briefs

Agent: Warner deserves pay of top quarterback

The Associated Press

The agent for Kurt Warner says he expected the quarterback and the Cardinals would have a contract agreement by now and hopes the team isn't using his client's desire to stay in Arizona against him.

Agent Mark Bartelstein said Warner deserves a salary among the top "four or five" quarterbacks in the league, no matter where he plays. According to Bartelstein, those five make an average of about \$14.5 million per year.

In an interview with The Associated Press Tuesday night, Bartelstein declined to say what the Cardinals were offering.

"It's unfortunate," Bartelstein said. "I thought it would get done quickly, but it hasn't. We'll keep working on it."

Barring an agreement, Warner will become a free agent on Friday.

In an interview on Sporting News Radio, the 37-year-old quarterback said he was leaning toward either signing with Arizona or retiring.

At this point in his career, Warner said, "you don't want to go and start over, you don't want to have to rebuild. You want to be able to be a part of something you're comfortable with, where the pieces are in place to be successful."

Warner also doesn't want to move his wife and seven children.

His comments add to the leverage the Cardinals have in their negotiations, but Bartelstein said it would be unfair to pay the quarterback less than he deserves just because he wants to stay put.

"I really hope it doesn't get used against him that he's a Cardinal," the agent said.

Cardinals general manager Rod Graves did not return a message left on his cell phone.

Bartelstein downplayed Warner's comments, saying, "things change quickly. ... When the phone rings, you've got to listen."

Warner was a bargain last season, making about \$4 million plus incentives at the controls of a prolific passing game that led the Cardinals on an improbable run to the Super Bowl.

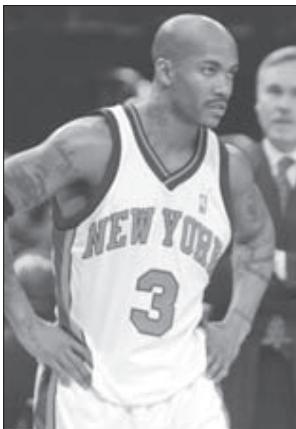
In four playoff games, Warner completed 68 percent of his passes for 1,147 yards and 11 touchdowns, with three interceptions.

Warner wants a deal for two years with a possible option for a third. Both he and his agent were keenly aware that in the current economic downturn there is little public sympathy for an athlete averaging over a few million dollars.

"The last Kurt or I want is for anyone to feel sorry for him," Bartelstein said. "That's not his or my style."

In other NFL news:

■ Commissioner Roger Goodell has taken a 20 percent cut in pay and the league staff has been trimmed by 15 percent because of the reeling economy. The league said Wednesday it has dropped 169 jobs as a result of buyouts, layoffs and other staff reductions. Goodell voluntarily took a cut from the \$11 million



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

The Boston Celtics are said to be interested in guard Stephon Marbury, who was waived by the New York Knicks on Tuesday.

salary and bonuses he was to receive this past year. He and other league executives are freezing their salaries for 2009.

■ Former Jacksonville Jaguars running back Fred Taylor got a head start on the NFL free agency period, visiting with the Buffalo Bills on Tuesday.

■ Three oft-injured veterans who hardly played last season were cut loose on Tuesday by the Kansas City Chiefs: linebacker Donnie Edwards, quarterback Damon Huard and cornerback Patrick Surtain.

■ A federal judge has set a June 15 trial date for Vikings defensive tackles Kevin Williams and Pat Williams, who tested positive for a banned substance last year. The players are seeking monetary damages in addition to having a four-game suspension from the NFL overturned. The players' union has said the league didn't properly inform the players that a supplement called StarCaps contained the banned diuretic bumetanide, which can be used as a masking agent for steroids.

■ The Carolina Panthers began shedding veteran players to clear salary-cap space, releasing receiver D.J. Hackett, offensive lineman Jeremy Bridges and running back Nick Goings.

■ Prosecutors dropped charges of resisting arrest and other crimes against Jonathan Vilma after the New Orleans Saints linebacker agreed to give to charity and clear up outstanding tickets.

■ Pro Bowl linebacker Derrick Brooks and four other high-priced veterans have been released by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. The other players released were receivers Joey Galloway and Ike Hilliard, linebacker Cato June and running back Warrick Dunn.

Last of Vick co-defendants released from prison

RICHMOND, Va. — All of Michael Vick's dogfighting co-defendants have been released from federal prison.

Only the suspended Atlanta Falcons star remains behind bars. Vick is serving a 23-month prison term at the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kan., and is due

to be released July 20.

Quanis Phillips, who like Vick pleaded guilty to a federal dogfighting conspiracy, was released from federal prison Friday, according to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons Web site. Purnell Peace and Tony Taylor had previously been released.

Phillips, Peace and Taylor still face state dogfighting charges in Surry County Circuit Court. Vick pleaded guilty to one state dogfighting count in November and was given a three-year suspended sentence.

Knicks, Marbury part ways

NEW YORK — The New York Knicks are free of Stephon Marbury, and the troublesome point guard is free to join a playoff contender.

Marbury was waived Tuesday by the Knicks, ending a turbulent five-year stint in which the former All-Star couldn't lead his hometown team to a playoff victory.

The team released a statement saying an agreement between the Knicks and Marbury had been reached, but did not disclose financial terms. Knicks president Donnie Walsh has said the team and Marbury have been trying to work out a buyout.

Walsh's hope was to get something for Marbury in a trade, but with Marbury's salary of close to \$21 million this season and a divisive personality, he knew a deal was improbable.

Marbury would be eligible for the playoffs with any team that signs him because he was waived by March 1. He has been linked to the Boston Celtics, who are in need of a backup guard with Tony Allen injured.

Elsewhere around the NBA:

■ The Celtics on Tuesday signed free agent forward Mikki Moore. The 7-foot, 225-pound Moore was waived by the Sacramento Kings last week. He spent part of the 2002-2003 season with the Celtics.

■ Gilbert Arenas has been practicing full-speed with the Washington Wizards for more than a week as he works his way back from his latest knee surgery.

■ Portland Trail Blazers center Greg Oden will miss at least two more games because of a bone chip in his left knee.

Promoter cancels Phelps speaking events in Canada

CALGARY, Alberta — Michael Phelps has been dropped as the keynote speaker at two events in Canada next week, with the promoter citing the Olympic champion swimmer's "widely publicized alleged use of marijuana."

Power Within Inc. of Toronto, which organizes motivational speaking events, canceled Phelps' appearances at events in Calgary and Vancouver, the Toronto Globe and Mail reported.

Schiano will no longer oversee Rutgers' defense

PISCATAWAY, N.J. — Rutgers coach Greg Schiano is giving up his defensive coordinator duties.

Schiano announced Tuesday that he is promoting two as-

sistants to share the defensive coordinator role. He also made two other assistants co-offensive coordinators.

Bob Fraser, who has been linebackers coach, and Ed Pinkham, who handled the secondary, will be co-defensive coordinators.

Kirk Ciarrocca, who was wide receivers coach, and Kyle Flood, who was offensive line coach, were named offensive co-coordinators.

Ciarrocca will also coach the quarterbacks and Flood will continue as assistant head coach.

Schiano had served as defensive coordinator since 2005.

Devils' Brodeur to return to lineup Thursday

NEWARK, N.J. — New Jersey Devils goaltender Martin Brodeur will make his first start since missing nearly four months with an elbow injury.

The Devils play the Colorado Avalanche on Thursday night.

The 36-year-old Brodeur was informed of the team's decision Wednesday after getting the majority of work for the third straight practice.

Brodeur was hurt in a game against Atlanta on Nov. 1, and had surgery days later to repair a torn biceps muscle in his left elbow.

Brodeur has won four Vezina trophies as the NHL's top goaltender, including last year. He is on the verge of surpassing Patrick Roy's NHL record for career wins.

Peavy, Oswalt lead U.S. rotation for WBC

NEW YORK — It's going to be awfully crowded out there in the bullpen.

Final rosters for the second World Baseball Classic were released Tuesday, with Jake Peavy, Roy Oswalt and Joe Nathan highlighting a 14-man U.S. pitching staff that includes 10 major league relievers.

Nathan, an All-Star closer for the Minnesota Twins, figures to anchor an accomplished bullpen that also features B.J. Ryan, Brian Fuentes, Jonathan Broxton and Scot Shields.

Peavy and Oswalt headline the rotation, with Ted Lilly and Jeremy Guthrie rounding out the back end. Team USA, managed by Davey Johnson, will play a maximum of eight games in a span of 17 days next month, making four starters sufficient.

Alex Rodriguez was included on the Dominican Republic's roster — as expected. Rodriguez, who recently admitted using performance-enhancing drugs from 2001-03, played for the United States during the inaugural WBC three years ago.

Dustin Pedroia, Derek Jeter and Grady Sizemore are among the offensive stars who will try to help the U.S. improve on its 2006 finish, when it was knocked out in the second round. Japan beat Cuba in the championship game.

Players will leave their big league teams and report to U.S. camp Sunday in Clearwater, Fla. The tournament begins March 5 in Tokyo, and the United States plays its first game March 7

against Canada in Toronto.

Each of the 16 teams in the WBC can carry 28 players, but the U.S. took only 27. The list was pared down from 43 players submitted on its provisional roster that was announced last month.

Derrek Lee, Evan Longoria and Shane Victorino were among those on the provisional roster who were left off the final one.

J.P. Howell, Matt Lindstrom, J.J. Putz, Matt Thornton and Brad Ziegler fill out the U.S. bullpen.

Jeter was already anointed the starting shortstop, with Jimmy Rollins in a backup role. David Wright and Chipper Jones could share time at third base, with Kevin Youkilis at first and Pedroia at second.

Sizemore is joined in the outfield by Ryan Braun, Curtis Granderson and Brad Hawpe. Mark DeRosa was chosen for a utility role.

Brian McCann and Chris Iannetta are the U.S. catchers.

Tejada won't play in WBC

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — Miguel Tejada will not play for the Dominican Republic in next month's World Baseball Classic.

Tejada and Astros manager Cecil Cooper said the Dominican team's request that the shortstop play first base during the tournament was a major factor in the decision.

"They've never seen me play first base," Tejada said. "I prefer to be sitting the bench and wait for a chance to play short or another position, but not first base."

IRL's Dixon off and running

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — Reigning champion Scott Dixon led the way Tuesday night on the first of two days of preseason testing for the IndyCar Series.

Dixon turned a fast lap of 211.372 mph to top the six-hour session under the lights at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

Team Penske's Ryan Briscoe was close behind at 210.793, followed by 210.603 by 2007 series champ Dario Franchitti, newly returned from an aborted run in NASCAR to join Dixon at Target Chip Ganassi Racing.

Israeli tennis player loses Dubai doubles match

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — An Israeli player taking part in a controversial Dubai tournament a week after a fellow Israeli was barred from entering the country lost his opening match.

Andy Ram and his partner, Kevin Ullyett of Zimbabwe, lost to Russia's Marat Safin and Spain's David Ferrer 6-3, 2-6, 10-8.

Ram's appearance comes a week after another Israeli player, Shahar Peer, was barred from entering the country to play in the women's tournament.

At the time, organizers cited security concerns for the decision, which prompted widespread protests and pressure to allow Ram to compete.

Spectators watching Ram's match had to leave their belongings outside, and metal detectors were set outside the court.



MATT YORK/AP

Tiger Woods, who started the day birdie-eagle, gets fired up after his second shot on the par-5 second hole hits the green during the first round of the Accenture Match Play Championship on Wednesday.

Tiger back in style

Birdie-eagle start leads to 3-and-2 victory over Aussie

By DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

MARANA, Ariz. — Eight months after his last tournament, Tiger Woods looked as though he had never been away.

Woods made a triumphant return to golf Wednesday in the Accenture Match Play Championship with a spectacular start that showed golf what it had been missing in the 253 days since he limped his way to an epic U.S. Open title.

Just past high noon in the desert, Woods fired an 8-iron into 5 feet for birdie.

Then came a gentle fist pump when his approach to the par-5 second settled 4 feet from the cup for eagle.

He closed Brendan Jones of Australia with a 3-foot par on the 16th hole for a 3-and-2 victory.

Woods poured it on late, eagling the par-5 13th hole to go 4-up with five holes to play. Jones had little chance on a day when Woods was as hot as the desert sun.

The world's No. 1 player said he looked forward to the rush of competition, something he had not experienced since he won the U.S. Open in a playoff June 16

on one good leg. He had season-ending surgery on his left knee a week later.

Fans packed into the stands around the first tee, with more lined up behind the ropes to the green, and the cheer when Woods walked onto the tee could be heard all the way down the fairway.

Woods backed off his tee shot, and without much expression, belted a fairway metal down the right side of the fairway.

"You are back!" one spectator shouted.

From 167 yards, Woods hit an 8-iron toward the middle of the green that caught a ridge and stopped 5 feet from the hole. He converted for birdie to go 1 up. The par-5 second was even better, as Woods watched his second shot and offered a gentle fist pump when it stopped 4 feet from the hole. He never had to make his eagle putt when Jones settled for par.

So much for the rust — at least early.

Woods found the bunker on the par-3 third, the ball on a slight down-slope leaving him no chance to get it close. He wound up with a bogey to halve the hole, and didn't look nearly as crisp for the rest of

the front nine.

Jones cut into the lead when Woods came up short of the seventh green and made birdie, then Woods answered with a 6-foot birdie on the eighth. He was 2 up heading to the back nine.

The gallery hustled through the desert to watch every shot, missing some entertaining golf around the rest of Dove Mountain. Three days after Phil Mickelson blew a lead and rallied to win at the Northern Trust Open, he did it again.

Mickelson was 4 up with five holes to play when former U.S. Open champion Angel Cabrera won the next four holes — three with birdies — to force overtime. Mickelson won on the 19th hole.

Anthony Kim never lost a hole against Lin Wen-tang, beating him 7 and 5. Camilo Villegas had the shortest day at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club, hammering Rod Pampling of Australia, 7 and 6.

Trevor Immelman got off to the best start, holing out with a 9-iron for eagle on the opening hole. But the Masters champion wound up losing when Shingo Katayama fired three birdies and an eagle on the back nine, winning 3 and 2.

College basketball roundup

No. 1 Pitt takes beating at Providence

The Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Pittsburgh lost its first game since being elevated to the No. 1 spot in the rankings and opened the door for Providence to make the NCAA tournament.

The Panthers fell behind 15-4, failed to score for six minutes at the end of the first half and then saw reigning Big East player of the week DeJuan Blair foul out in the final minute as Providence led wire-to-wire in an 81-73 victory Tuesday night.

"I didn't recognize us," Pitt coach Jamie Dixon said. "We've got high standards, and we didn't live up to them tonight. That's obvious."

The Friars were coming off a 19-point loss to Notre Dame that might have eliminated their hopes of an NCAA berth. But with a signature victory — their first over a top-ranked team since 1976 — and a virtual lock on a winning record in the tough Big East, the Friars might have salvaged their postseason.

"We're in a pretty good situation: we're in the top half of the best conference in the country," coach Keno Davis said. "It puts us in the conversation. I'm sure if we had lost, they wouldn't be talking about us anymore."

Weyimmi Efejuku scored 16 points and Sharaud Curry added 15 for the Friars (17-11, 9-7), and Geoff McDermott had 11 points, six assists and three of Providence's 11 steals. Blair had 17 points and eight rebounds, and Sam Young had 16 points and eight rebounds for Pitt, which had won seven straight.

Blair was named Big East player of the week after averaging 21 points and 20.5

rebounds in victories over then-No. 1 Connecticut and DePaul last week. He picked up two quick fouls — his third and fourth — midway through the second half, then his fifth with 46 seconds left after Pitt had a chance to make it a four-point game.

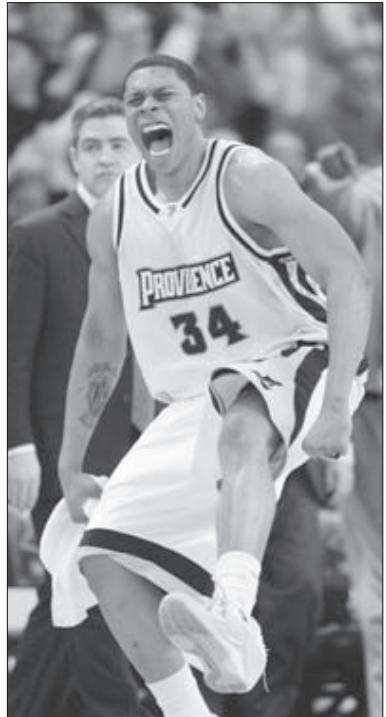
"He's a special player," Davis said. "You look and he got 17 points and eight boards and it's a down night."

Providence led by 20 points after scoring the first basket of the second half to complete a 17-1 run. The Panthers cut it to 75-70 on Blair's putback with 51 seconds left. After Brian McKenzie hit two free throws for Providence a fraction of a second later, Pitt brought the ball down and Blair was called for an offensive foul.

The fans in the Dunkin' Donuts Center crowded around the courtside press tables for the final minutes. Twice, the public address announcer begged the fans to stay off the court following the game; twice the crowd responded by laughing.

No. 18 LSU 81, Florida 75: At Baton Rouge, La., Marcus Thornton scored 32 points to help LSU clinch a share of the Southeastern Conference championship. The Tigers (24-4, 12-1) have won nine consecutive overall and 12 in a row in SEC play. They can win their second outright conference title in the past four seasons with one victory in their last three games. Walter Hodge paced the Gators (21-7, 8-5) with 16 points.

Boston College 72, No. 23 Florida State 67: At Boston, Tyrese Rice hit a three-pointer with 20.5 seconds to play and Joe Trapani scored 19 points to lead Boston College (20-9, 8-6 Atlantic Coast Conference).



STEW MILNE/AP

Providence's Jonathan Kale celebrates after teammate Sharaud Curry sank a three-point basket during Providence's upset of No. 1 Pitt on Tuesday night.

Governor calls Calhoun rant embarrassing

The Associated Press

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Connecticut basketball coach Jim Calhoun's tirade at a freelance journalist posing questions about his \$1.6 million salary was an "embarrassing display," the state's governor said Tuesday.

Gov. M. Jodi Rell said she believes Calhoun regrets the outburst directed at Ken Krayeske, who questioned the coach about his salary after a game Saturday.

"I think if Coach Calhoun had the opportunity right now, he would welcome a do-over and not have that embarrassing display from last week," Rell said.

Rell said Calhoun's whole tone was embarrassing. Calhoun hasn't spoken with the media since the tirade.

Krayeske, a freelancer and political activist, attended the game on a photo press pass and asked the first question of the coach's news conference after a 64-50 victory over South Florida.

He asked why the coach of a public university was making \$1.6 million while the state has a \$944 million deficit and a projected \$8 billion shortfall over the next two years.

Calhoun first responded with a joke, then grew angry as Krayeske continued the line of questioning.

"My best advice to you is, shut up," Calhoun said.

"Quite frankly, we bring in \$12 million to the university, nothing to do with state funds. We make \$12 million a year for this university. Get some facts and come back and see me. ... Don't throw out salaries and other things."

SPORTS

■ After an 8-month layoff,
Tiger back in style, Page 31



THE GRADY CRUNCH

BY TOM WITHERS
The Associated Press

GOODYEAR, Ariz.

ll ballplayers have a statistical offensive ceiling, the intersection where potential collides with talent. Grady Sizemore might not have touched his limits.

Just 26 years old, Cleveland's supremely gifted All-Star center fielder has hit at least 20 homers and stolen 20 bases in each of his four full seasons in the majors. Last year, he hit 33 homers and stole 38 bases, becoming just the second Indians player and 10th in AL history in the 30-30 club.

Only four players — Jose Canseco, Barry Bonds, Alex Rodriguez and Alfonso Soriano — have recorded 40 homers and 40 steals in the same season.

The 40-40 fraternity is baseball's most select brotherhood.

Can Sizemore join it?

"Oh, yeah," Indians manager Eric Wedge said. "Anything is possible with Grady."

Sure seems that way. Sizemore, who tracks fly balls in center field with the tenacity of an NFL linebacker, is one of the game's most well-rounded players. With a rare blend of speed, power, drive, leadership and humility, the 6-foot-2, 200-pound Sizemore embodies everything the Indians want in a player.

"He's unlike any I've ever been around," said Wedge, in his seventh season with Cleveland. "For me, you have to compare him to the great ones."

Grady the Great.

His numbers might be impressive to outsiders, but Sizemore isn't satisfied. And it's that quest for perfection that makes him so good. Although other players might be content to hit, say, .275 with 30 doubles and 20 homers, Sizemore wants more.

"I try to improve on every aspect of my game every year," he said this week following a post-practice weightlifting session. "You try to build on what success you've had and you try to minimize your weaknesses, improve as much as you can on those and go from there. For me, it's everything from defensive work to base running to hitting."

A workout fiend, Sizemore has been fine-tuning his game for months. The Indians' new state-of-the-art training complex is less than an hour's drive from his home in Scottsdale, and Sizemore has

SEE CRUNCH ON PAGE 49

At age 26, Indians' Sizemore hits with power, steals bases and plays center field like an NFL linebacker



PAUL CONNORS/AP

Spring training roundup: Seattle's Erik Bedard passes first test in comeback, Page 28

No. 1 Pitt runs into big trouble at Providence Page 31

